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F.O. 413/44

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PART 32.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

44

January to March 1907.

F.O. 415 / 44
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. G. Lowther ..	1 Tel.	Jan. 2, 1907	Raisuli's position. He is conducting negotiations with Minister of War and is not likely to offer any resistance. French Minister has demanded settlement of claims and surrender of M. Charbonnier's murderers, and intends to advise bombardment of village in which latter have taken refuge if they are not given up.. ..	1
2	„ „ ..	2 Tel.	2,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Sid Torres has asked Spanish Minister for reply to his note regarding. M. Llaveria has referred to Madrid for instructions ..	1
3	To Mr. G. Lowther..	1 Tel.	2,	Suggests advisability of representation by Diplomatic Body respecting the Valientes. Refers to Tangier No. 90, Telegraphic ..	2
4	Mr. G. Lowther ..	3 Tel.	3,	Punishment of Valientes. Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 1. Would be unable to get colleagues to join in representation as they have no grievances against the Valientes	2
5	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	3	2,	Algeciras Act. Steps which Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs proposes to take after deposit of ratifications towards establishment of Moorish police. Señor Perez Caballero is anxious to withdraw portion of Spanish forces from Tangier as soon as possible, but French Ambassador is strongly urging their retention	2
6	To Sir F. Bertie ..	2 Tel.	5,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Refers to Tangier No. 2, Telegraphic. Mr. Lowther has general instructions to cooperate with French colleague	3
7	Mr. G. Lowther ..	4 Tel.	6,	Attack on Raisuli's stronghold made by Government troops on 5th January with indecisive result and to be renewed on 6th January	3
8	„ „ ..	254	Dec. 27, 1906	Denmark will abstain from participation in discussions at Tangier under Act of Algeciras	3
9	„ „ ..	255	28,	Dismissal of Raisuli from Governorship of Tangier district. Reports. Sid Kaddor Bel Ghazi appointed in his place, and Ben Mansour, Raisuli's Khalifa, dismissed with a free pardon. Portion of Sid Guebbas' force encamped at gates of Tangier and rest at distance of 3 miles	3
10	Marquis de Villalobar	..	..	Algeciras Act. Transmits document certifying deposit of ratifications. Swiss Government asked to nominate Inspector-General for Moorish police and to recognize competence of Tribunal of Lausanne in questions relating to future State Bank ..	4
11	Mr. G. Lowther ..	5 Tel.	Jan. 7, 1907	Destruction of Raisuli's stronghold. Reports	5
12	To Mr. G. Lowther ..	3 Tel.	7,	Punishment of Valiente. To make representation as proposed in his telegram No. 90 of 29th December, 1906, if moment judged opportune, but to word communication so that non-compliance will not place Legation in false position	5

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
13	Mr. G. Lowther ..	2	Jan. 2, 1907	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Translation of Sid Torres' note to Spanish Minister asking for reply (see Tangier No. 2, Telegraphic). Points out alterations in new version of interpretations ..	5
14	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	6	5,	Moorish police. Number of Spanish officers and non-commissioned officers to be appointed. M. de Broncart announced as Swiss inspector	7
15	To Mr. G. Lowther ..	4 Tel.	8,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Spanish Ambassador says his Government still maintain their objections	7
16	Sir G. Bonham ..	3	8,	Duties appertaining to Switzerland under Algeciras Act. President says appointment of police inspector will be made in two or three weeks, but question of reference to Federal Tribunal of disputes concerning future State Bank will require to be considered by Chambers, which do not meet till April	7
17	Memorandum communicated by Spanish Embassy.	..	11,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Spanish Government decline discussion. If all the other Powers take similar view, Spanish Minister at Tangier would be ready to inform the Makhzen on their behalf, but, if divergence of views exists, it would be preferable for each Power to communicate its reply separately. Suggests Russia and Portugal should agree to return negative answer, and that Ministers of England, France, and Spain should make their communications to Sultan's deputy simultaneously and in same terms	8
18	Mr. G. Lowther ..	3	2,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. French Minister intends strongly to oppose any one Minister representing more than one Power	9
19	„ „ ..	5	5,	Summary of events in Morocco during 1906	9
20	„ „ ..	6	6,	Operations against Raisuli. Account of first day's attack on his stronghold. Capture of Cadi known as partisan of Raisuli is followed by capture of villagers from near Government lines	14
21	„ „ ..	7	6,	Origin of Raisuli and incidents in his life. Memorandum by Mr. Warner	15
22	„ „ ..	6 Tel.	12,	Raisuli has petitioned Sultan for pardon ..	17
23	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	11	10,	Spain and Morocco. Movement in Madrid to foster interest in Moorish affairs ..	17
24	Sir F. Bertie ..	19	12,	Engagement of German officers in Sultan's service. Summary of article in "Temps" respecting mission of Messrs. Wolff and von Tschudy	18
25	Mr. G. Lowther ..	7 Tel.	13,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Nature of reply to be returned, subject to approval in identic notes by British, French, and Spanish Representatives ..	18
26	To Sir F. Villiers ..	1 Tel.	14,	Reply to Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. To express to Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs hope that Portuguese Minister at Tangier may be instructed to act in concert with his British, French, and Spanish colleagues ..	19

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
27	To Marquis de Villa-lobar	..	Jan. 16, 1907	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Refers to Spanish Embassy, 11th January. His Majesty's Government communicating with French Government, and will endeavour to obtain co-operation of Portugal	19
28	To Sir F. Bertie ..	24	16,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Forwards copy of communication of Spanish Embassy of 11th January. To inform French Government that His Majesty's Government agree with views there expressed. His Majesty's Government will endeavour to obtain co-operation of Portugal, and leave it to France to secure that of Russia	19
29	Sir F. Bertie ..	27	16,	Engagement of German officers in Sultan's Service. Refers to Paris No. 19. Reply of "Temps" to statement in "North German Gazette" that Messrs. von Tschudy and Wolff had not been engaged as instructors. The appointment of Major von Tschudy as technical expert in connection with public works is regarded as conflicting with the provisions of the Algeciras Conference	20
30	Mr. G. Lowther ..	8 Tel.	17,	Maintenance of security at Tangier. French Minister has suggested to his Government withdrawal of French and Spanish warships with exception of one for each Power. He has also proposed that Makhzen shall be notified that police will now be organized by means of funds temporarily advanced by France and Spain ..	20
31	Sir F. Bertie ..	2 Tel.	18,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. French Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees with views expressed in Foreign Office No. 24. His Excellency will endeavour to secure Russian co-operation	21
32	Mr. G. Lowther ..	9	7,	Operations against Raisuli. His village captured, but all its inhabitants escaped. Moorish Government hope by threatening the tribes to prevent them from giving hospitality to Raisuli	21
33	„ „ ..	11	10,	Operations against Raisuli. Reasons to account for ill-success attending efforts of Moorish army to inflict decisive defeat on the ex-Governor. The latter has now returned to the mountains and is in practical security	21
34	„ „ ..	12	13,	Claims arising out of Raisuli's Governorship. Unfriendly note received by French Minister from Sid Torres in reply to request for their settlement	22
35	Sir F. Villiers ..	1 Tel.	19,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Refers to Foreign Office No. 1, Telegraphic. Portuguese Minister at Tangier will be instructed that, subject to efforts to obtain unanimity, he is to support his British, French, and Spanish colleagues as regards reply to Moorish Government..	23

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
36	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	3 Tel.	Jan. 19, 1907	Preservation of order in Morocco. French and Spanish Governments are about to announce to Powers withdrawal of their squadrons from Tangier, troops being, however, held in convenient places for re-embarkation, and intention at once to set on foot new police organization without awaiting constitution of State Bank..	23
37	Mr. G. Lowther ..	13	14,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Further attempts of Sid Torres to induce the Diplomatic Body to hold meetings in the house provided by the Moorish Government (see Tangier No. 215). Sid Torres affirms that refusal of Diplomatic Body is disrespectful to the Sultan, and has asked for matter to be referred to the respective Governments	23
38	Sir G. Bonham ..	6	20,	Inspectorship of Morocco police. Swiss Government desire to settle certain preliminary matters before nominating Swiss officer	24
39	Memorandum communicated by Spanish Chargé d'Affaires	..	21,	Inspectorship of Morocco police. Spanish Government have asked Swiss Government to nominate officer without awaiting settlement of their conditions, and desire support of His Majesty's Government ..	25
40	Note communicated by French and Spanish Embassies	..	22,	Preservation of order at Tangier. France and Spain, in view of improved state of affairs, hope soon to be able to withdraw their squadrons and to commence organization of the police, for which the necessary steps have been agreed upon ..	25
41	Mr. G. Lowther ..	9 Tel.	22,	Partial withdrawal of French and Spanish squadrons from Tangier. To take place on 23rd January. Note explaining reasons presented to Moorish Commissioner	26
42	„ „ ..	14	16,	Engagement of German officers in Sultan's service. Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 149. Statement made by German Minister. Major von Tschudy is to replace former German engineer in Moorish service, and his companion is intended to represent him when absent ..	26
43	To Sir F. Villiers ..	2 Tel.	23,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Refers to Lisbon No. 1, Telegraphic. To inform Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Majesty's Government hope instructions given to Portuguese Minister at Tangier will make it quite clear he is to support British, French, and Spanish colleagues failing unanimity	27
44	Sir F. Villiers ..	2 Tel.	24,	Reply to Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Refers to Foreign Office No. 2, Telegraphic. Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs says instructions given to Portuguese Minister at Tangier make it clear that, in event of failure to secure unanimity, he is to support his British, French, and Spanish colleagues.. ..	27
45	To M. Cambon .. „ Marquis de Villa-lobar	..	26,	Preservation of order at Tangier. Acknowledges communication of 22nd January. His Majesty's Government in complete accord with views and suggestions put forward	27

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
46	Mr. G. Lowther ..	15	Jan. 16, 1907	Morocco State Bank. Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs states that arrangements for Moorish participation are complete, capital required being ready	27
47	„ „ ..	16	17,	Harbour works at Tangier and Laraiche. Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 140, 1906. Has been unable to obtain declaration from German Minister as to German claims, but latter may soon be compelled to make statement. French Minister says Dr. Rosen arranged at Fez for future works at Tangier to the extent of 30,000*l.*, which M. Regnault considers contrary to Act of Algeciras	28
48	„ „ ..	18	19,	Condition of affairs in Tangier district. Cessation of operations against Raisuli, latter being now in safe refuge. Price of 1,000*l.* set by Moorish Government on his head. Little done by Moorish authorities to re-establish security	28
49	Sir F. Villiers ..	3	20,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Portuguese Minister at Tangier was instructed in October to reply in similar terms to His Majesty's Minister. These instructions are still maintained, but Portuguese Minister being Dean of Diplomatic Body has been directed to endeavour to secure unanimity before making his reply	29
50	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	22	23,	Morocco police. Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs engaged in making necessary arrangements with view to inauguration. His Excellency contemplates meeting at Madrid between Swiss, French, and Spanish Inspectors for framing draught Regulations, so that definite scheme may soon be submitted to Moorish Minister for War	29
51	Sir F. Lascelles ..	30	24,	Preservation of order in Morocco. Reports presentation of Franco-Spanish identic notes (see 22nd January, Section 1) to German Minister for Foreign Affairs, who replied that German Government would do all in their power to hasten on organization of police	30
52	Sir F. Bertie ..	48	27,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. French Government share views of His Majesty's Government as to presentation of replies (see Foreign Office despatch No. 24). They have taken steps to secure co-operation of Russia and Italy ..	30
53	Sir G. Bonham ..	9	27,	Morocco police. Swiss Government have nominated Colonel Armin Müller as Inspector-General. They hope conditions previously put forward will be agreed to (see Berne despatch No. 6)	31
54	Marquis de Villalobar ..		28,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Swiss Government have nominated Colonel Armin Müller	31

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
55	To Sir F. Lascelles ..	34	Jan. 30, 1907	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act (see Tangier despatch No. 13). German Ambassador says German Minister at Tangier is favourable to plenary sittings being held in house offered by Moorish Government, and attaches little value to objections to this course. Count Metternich informed of instructions sent to His Majesty's Minister	32
56	Sir F. Bertie ..	54	30,	Question of replies to Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Has informed French Minister for Foreign Affairs of satisfactory assurances received from Portuguese Government (see Lisbon despatch No. 3). French Government have obtained co-operation of Russia	32
57	Mr. G. Lowther ..	10 Tel.	Feb. 1,	Moorish Government have requested loan of 10,000,000 fr. Money required on account of operations against Raisuli. Makhzen hope advance will be made by banks having shares in future State Bank	32
58	„ „ ..	11 Tel.	2,	Request of Moorish Government for loan of 10,000,000 fr. Refers to his telegram No. 10. French Minister considers Moorish Government should apply to French Syndicate. Latter have now under consideration request from them for loan of 2,000,000 fr.	33
59	„ „ ..	19	Jan. 22,	Mission of Major Tschudy. Refers to Tangier despatch No. 14. Substance of conversation between French and German Ministers. Influence on allocation of public works which will be possessed by Major Tschudy pointed out by French Minister, who inquired if this was in accordance with Algeciras Act. Request for 300 men to form engineer corps received at Tangier from Fez	33
60	„ „ ..	21	26,	Further operations of Moorish army against Raisuli. Describes. Reward for capture of Raisuli raised to 2,000*l.* Army encamped at Alcazar has succeeded in inducing rebellious tribes to submit to Makhzen	34
61	Note communicated by Spanish Ambassador ..		Feb. 5,	Appointment of Inspector-General of police. Note from Swiss Government inquiring as to duties and position of	34
62	„ „ ..		5,	Duties appertaining to Switzerland under Algeciras Act. Copies of notes from Federal Government to Spanish Legation at Berne. Colonel Armin Müller nominated, with certain reservations, as Inspector-General of Morocco police. Reply will be made later respecting question of acceptance by Federal Tribunal of jurisdiction in case of disputes concerning State Bank	35
63	Memorandum communicated by M. Geoffray ..		8,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Details efforts of Moorish Delegates to persuade Diplomatic Body to hold meetings in house provided by Makhzen, and enumerates arguments against acquiescence. M. Regnault's opposition to acceptance of Moorish offer approved by French Government. Inquires views of His Majesty's Government	36

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
64	Memorandum communicated by M. Geoffray	..	Feb. 8, 1907	Request of Moorish Government for loan of 10,000,000 fr. Reasons for which the French Government consider it should be refused	36
65	Mr. G. Lowther ..	26	Jan. 31,	Position of the Valientes. Notes on. They have no following of importance. Mr. Lowther has confidentially expressed to Minister of War hope that action may be taken against them after Raisuli has been disposed of	37
66	„ „ ..	27	Feb. 2,	German officers engaged for Sultan's service. Impression exists at Fez that Major Tschudy is to be Major Ogilvy's successor as cavalry instructor. Reasons for this view	38
67	„ „ ..	28	2,	Request of Moorish Government for loan of 10,000,000 fr. Extends his telegrams Nos. 10 and 11 and forwards translation of note from Sid Torres	38
68	„ „ ..	29	3,	Raisuli. Sultan has refused to reply to his request for pardon. Operations are suspended in the anticipation of the surrender of Zellal, Chief of the Beni M'saour tribe, who has been co-operating with Raisuli. Intrigues against Guebbas rife at Court ..	39
69	Sir F. Bertie ..	74	9,	Moorish Government's request for a loan of 400,000*l.* Refers to Paris despatch No. 65. Memorandum received from M. Pichon, giving reasons for which French Government consider request should be refused, and stating opinion that it could only be acceded to by the French Syndicate which made the advance of 1904	39
70	To Señor de Villa Urrutia ..	..	11,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. His Majesty's Government desire to consult French Government before expressing an opinion on points raised in notes communicated on 4th February	40
71	To Sir F. Bertie ..	73	11,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Sir E. Grey considers conditions put forward by Swiss Government reasonable, and suggests that Inspector should be placed under protection of United States' Legation. His Majesty's Government desire to ascertain views of French Government before expressing any opinion to Spanish Government	40
72	Memorandum communicated to M. Geoffray	..	12,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Refers to No. 63. His Majesty's Government agree that meetings should continue to be held at house of Dean of Diplomatic Body and have so instructed Mr. Lowther	41
73	To Mr. G. Lowther ..	19	12,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Question of holding meetings in house offered by Moorish Government. Transmits copy of No. 63 and informs of reply returned to M. Geoffray	41
74	To M. Geoffray ..	..	13,	Request of Moorish Government for loan of 10,000,000 fr. His Majesty's Representative at Tangier instructed to support views of French Government as set forth in No. 64	42
75	To Mr. G. Lowther ..	20	13,	Request of Moorish Government for loan of 10,000,000 fr. To support attitude of French colleague	42

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
76	Sir G. Bonham ..	11	Feb. 12, 1907	Inspector-General of Morocco police. President of Swiss Confederation surprised at delay of Spanish Government in notifying Sultan of appointment of Colonel Muller. The President says that the question of the Power under whose protection the Inspector is to be placed has less importance than was previously supposed ..	42
77	Mr. Lister.. ..	84	14,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 73. French Minister for Foreign Affairs is disposed to accept Swiss conditions. Federal Council have selected Portugal as Power under whose protection Inspector is to be placed, and M. Cambon has been instructed to obtain co-operation of His Majesty's Government in obtaining Portuguese consent	43
78	To Sir F. Villiers ..	3 Tel.	15,	Swiss Inspector-General of Morocco police. To concert with French and Spanish colleagues in asking that he may be placed under protection of Portugal	44
79	Sir F. Villiers ..	4 Tel.	16,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 3. Has written to Minister for Foreign Affairs in support of proposal that Inspector-General shall be placed under protection of Portuguese Legation at Tangier. French Chargé d'Affaires has proposed that the protection shall only extend to personal matters	44
80	Mr. G. Lowther ..	12 Tel.	17,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Moorish house now placed unreservedly at disposal of Diplomatic Body. Requests authority to agree to arrangement, all his colleagues being in favour of acceptance..	45
81	„ „ ..	30 Confidential	6,	State Bank. Refers to his despatch No. 14. Representative of Moorish group of subscribers has left for Paris under guidance of a partner in one of the German banks. German attempts to obtain share of Moorish portion of capital appear to have been to some extent successful	45
82	„ „ ..	32	6,	German harbour works at Tangier and Laraiche. Reference to despatches containing particulars regarding Tangier. Nature of works to be carried out at Laraiche not decided upon. Mole in construction at Tangier is likely to affect drainage system, and German engineers have therefore submitted estimate for remedying this and constructing road along beach. German Minister urged acceptance of this, but was opposed by majority of his colleagues, and discussion of matter has now been postponed ..	45
83	„ „ ..	35	9,	Campaign against Raisuli. Zellal, Chief of the Beni M'saour tribe, has made his submission. Raisuli has sent some holy men to Fez to treat with the Sultan. Scarcity of money for payment of troops. Army at Alcazar has attacked El-Serif tribe, but was unable to follow up its initial success	46

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
84	Sir H. Howard ..	29 Confidential	Feb. 13, 1907	Netherland Legation at Tangier. Bill for establishing approved. M. Rappard, who has been appointed Minister, says he has no intention of following any particular Power, and that dislike for German representation of Netherlands was one of the principal reasons for the institution of the new post	47
85	Sir F. Villiers ..	5 Tel.	18,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Refers to his telegram No. 4. Portuguese Government consent to his being under protection of Portuguese Legation subject to assurance that no Power objects ..	47
86	Memorandum communicated by Señor de Villa Urrutia	..	20,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Position as regards the conditions attached by the Federal Government to the appointment of Colonel Müller. Latter ready to start as soon as approval of Sultan has been obtained for his selection	48
87	„ „	..	20,	Jurisdiction conferred on Tribunal of Lausanne by Algeciras Act. Informs of acceptance by Swiss Government under certain reservations	48
88	Mr. G. Lowther ..	14 Tel.	22,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Structures intended for working have been erected at Tangier and Casablanca, and will, it is said, be continued all down coast. Installation at Casablanca erected by French subject named Popp	49
89	„ „ ..	39	16,	Raisuli. Refers to his No. 35. Operations against him shortly to recommence. Zellal, Sheikh of the Beni M'souar tribe, and the Beni Ider and Beni Gorfet have surrendered to the Makhzen, and the hill tribes in Alcazar have also tendered their submission. Lack of money for maintenance of army. Assassination of Ben Mansour, formerly Raisuli's deputy at Tangier	49
90	Sir F. Villiers ..	10	19,	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Proposal that he shall be placed under protection of Portuguese Legation. Reports steps taken on Foreign Office No. 3, Telegraphic, and incloses copy of Memorandum showing action taken by French Chargé d'Affaires. Portuguese Government agree to arrangement provided no other Power raises objections	49
91	To Sir F. Bertie ..	102	25,	Jurisdiction conferred on Tribunal of Lausanne by Algeciras Act. Forwards copy of No. 86. To inform French Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Majesty's Government are disposed to accept second Swiss reservation, the first being a matter of form which does not concern them ..	51
92	To Mr. G. Lowther ..	10 Tel.	27,	Draft Sale of Arms Regulations. Agrees generally with criticism in his despatch No. 38. His Majesty's Government desire to reserve right to revise drafts of these and other Regulations before they are submitted to a vote in their final form ..	51

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
93	Sir G. Bonham ..	13	Feb. 26, 1907	Inspector-General of Morocco police. Restricted conditions under which Federal Government intend Portuguese jurisdiction over Colonel Müller to be exercised. Notes on Captain Fischer, who is to be attached to the Inspector as Staff officer. Colonel Müller intends travelling to Tangier by way of Paris and Madrid ..	51
94	Swiss Federal Council (communicated by Señor de Villa Urrutia)	..	Mar. 1,	Jurisdiction conferred by Algeciras Act on Lausanne Tribunal. Text of note from Federal Government to Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne accepting under certain reservations	52
95	Sir F. Bertie ..	110	Feb. 28,	Necessity for energetic French policy in Morocco. Summary of articles in "Gaulois" and "Dépêche Coloniale" advocating in view of German activity	53
96	Mr. G. Lowther ..	15 Tel.	Mar. 1,	State engineer for Moorish Government. Refers to his despatch No. 17. Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs has asked Belgian Minister to put forward a candidate	53
97	„ „ ..	41	Feb. 21,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Refers to Tangier despatch No. 13. Fresh note received from Moorish Government placing house offered by Makhzen at entire disposal of Diplomatic Body. French Minister now in favour of acceptance, and matter likely soon to be disposed of	54
98	„ „ ..	42	22,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. French subject believed to be constructing stations along coast. Transmits extract from despatch from Acting-Consul at Dar-al-Baida, and calls attention to preferential title to Wireless Telegraphy Concession possessed by Cape Spartel Signal Station	54
99	Sir A. Nicolson ..	107	24,	Russian attitude in Moorish affairs. Conversation with French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, who complains that Russian Government is disposed to observe neutrality between France and Germany. Sir A. Nicolson has given M. Bompard to understand that, acting in his private capacity, he will suggest to M. Isvolsky advisability of appointing a Russian Minister to Tangier, and instructing him to support French Minister in execution of provisions of Algeciras Act..	56
100	Mr. G. Lowther ..	45	24,	Discussions at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Refers to his despatch No. 41. Offer by Makhzen of house for holding meetings has now been accepted by Diplomatic Body, right of dean to preside having been recognized	56
101	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	47 Confidential	Mar. 1,	Morocco police. Conversation with French Ambassador at Madrid. Progress being made towards drawing up Regulations. M. Jules Cambon expects police and State Bank will be able to commence functions in April	59
102	Sir F. Bertie ..	118	3,	Jurisdiction conferred by Algeciras Act on Tribunal of Lausanne. French Government agree with views of His Majesty's Government regarding the reservations made by the Swiss Government (see despatch to Sir F. Bertie No. 102) ..	60

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
102*	To M. Cambon ..	..	Mar. 6, 1907	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Inquires as to the reported installation of stations by M. Popp, and points out that Lloyd's have a prior claim	60*
103	Sir G. Bonham ..	14	5,	Inspector - General of Morocco police. Sultan's consent having been given to appointment of Colonel Müller. that gentleman is leaving for Tangier on 6th February. Question of acceptance of jurisdiction conferred by Algeciras Act on Tribunal of Lausanne will be laid before Federal Assembly when it meets on 2nd April..	61
104	Sir F. Bertie ..	7 Tel.	7,	State engineer for Morocco. Refers to Tangier No. 15, Telegraphic. French Minister for Foreign Affairs much annoyed at action of Belgium in connection with candidature of Belgian engineer, which he ascribes to German instigation. M. Pichon intends to make his displeasure felt	61
105	To Sir F. Bertie ..	126	7,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Informs of Memorandum left by Spanish Ambassador respecting line of action agreed upon by Representatives of Great Britain, France. Italy, and Spain at Tangier. Spanish Government desire to learn views of His Majesty's Government, but. before sending a reply, Sir E. Grey wishes to receive an expression of the opinion of the French Government ..	61
106	Mr. G. Lowther ..	16 Tel.	7,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. French Minister has admitted that stations are being erected, but maintains that as they are on private property it is not a contravention of Algeciras Act	62
107	,, ,, ..	17 Tel.	7,	State engineer for Moorish Government. Refers to No. 96. Belgian Government have selected candidate for post ..	62
108	To Mr. G. Lowther ..	11 Tel.	8,	State engineer for Morocco. Refers to Tangier telegram No. 17. Agrees with French Government that according to Algeciras Act selection rests primarily with Diplomatic Body. Instructs Mr. Lowther to give his support to the French candidate	62
109	Mr. G. Lowther ..	47	1,	Controlling engineer for public works in Morocco provided for by Algeciras Act. Belgian Minister at Tangier has been invited by Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to put forward a Belgian candidate. Action of Moorish Government probably prompted by German Minister	62
110	,, ,, ..	49	1,	Morocco police. Sultan has approved choice of Colonel Müller as Inspector-General, but has omitted to notify approval of officers and non-commissioned officers named by France and Spain. His Majesty possibly wishes first to receive a reply to the questions raised by the Makhzen in regard to the Algeciras Act	63

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
111	Eastern Telegraph Company	..	Mar. 11, 1907	Wireless telegraphic communication between Tangier and Fez. Mr. Gerald Talbot has offered to obtain Concession for the Eastern Telegraph Company. Inquires whether, if installation were given as a present to the Sultan, the Company would be able to work the telegraphs on his behalf, whether His Majesty would have the power to stop the establishment of other installations, and whether charges could be made for the use of the installation without infringing the Algeciras Act..	63
112	Sir E. Egerton ..	2 Tel.	14,	State engineer. French Ambassador at Rome has asked for Sir E. Egerton's co-operation in pressing Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs to support French candidate	63
113	Sir F. Bertie ..	130	14,	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Substance of No. 105 communicated to French Minister for Foreign Affairs. Incloses text of Memorandum received from M. Pichon, stating that reply prepared by French and British Ministers has been unanimously returned to Sultan's Delegates by Diplomatic Body at Tangier	64
114	Sir E. Egerton ..	3 Tel.	15,	State engineer. Refers to No. 112. Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is embarrassed by attitude of Austria and Germany, is endeavouring to get Russian Government to persuade French Government to moderate their tone	64
115	,, ,, ..	4 Tel.	15,	State engineer. Refers to No. 112. French Ambassador hopes Sir E. Egerton may have immediate instructions to approach Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs ..	65
115*	To Sir E. Egerton ..	2 Tel.	15,	Refers to No. 112. State engineer. Instructions to support French Ambassador	65*
116	Mr. G. Lowther ..	52	5,	Harbour works at Dar-al-Baida. Despatch from Acting-Consul stating that the works are to be commenced at once	65
117	,, ,, ..	53	7,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Conversation with German Minister respecting installation reported as being made by French subject (see No. 98)	65
118	,, ,, ..	55	7,	Algeciras Act. Text of letter addressed by Dean of Diplomatic Body at Tangier to Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs calling attention to omission of Sultan to give effect to provisions relating to coasting trade, acquisition of real property by foreigners, and export of cattle. Refers to his despatch No. 31	66
119	,, ,, ..	56	7,	Death of one of the brigands Valiente. Reports	67
120	,, ,, ..	57	8,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Conversation with French Minister, in which latter endeavoured to justify action of M. Popp in erecting installations (see No. 13). Incloses copy of letter of Sir A. Nicolson putting forward Lloyd's application in 1903 and of Minutes of Diplomatic Body	67

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
121	Mr. G. Lowther ..	58	Mar. 8, 1907	Moorish interpretations of Algeciras Act. Refers to No. 113. Incloses text of Declaration and replies which Diplomatic Body have agreed to make to the Moorish Delegates if the matter is again raised ..	69
122	„ „ ..	60	9,	Discussion at Tangier under Algeciras Act. Declaration made by American Minister respecting attitude which he has been instructed to adopt	71
123	Sir E. Egerton ..	5 Tel.	16,	State engineer. Has spoken in sense of No. 115* to Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who suggests post be given to French candidate, and some other be found for Belgian	71
124	Sir A. Nicolson ..	119 Confidential	5,	Disclosures by M. Tardieu in the "Revue des Deux Mondes" of confidential details connected with Algeciras Conference. Conversation with M. Isvolsky respecting. Question of appointment of Russian Minister at Tangier. Refers to his despatch No. 107. Has mentioned matter to M. Isvolsky, but latter expressed as highly satisfied with manner in which Chargé d'Affaires has discharged his duties	72
125	Sir E. Egerton ..	48 Confidential	14,	State engineer. Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs is hesitating to support French candidate, and is, according to the French Ambassador, more inclined to give way to Germany in Morocco affairs than his predecessors. M. Barrère attaches much importance to Sir E. Egerton's co-operating with himself and the Russian Ambassador	72
126	„ „ ..	51	16,	State engineer. Conversation with Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who wishes to adopt neutral position	73
127	Lloyd's	..	18,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Calls attention to reported erection of installation by French Company. Asks that Moorish Government may be reminded of the permission already given to Lloyd's to equip Cape Spartel Signal Station with wireless telegraphy, and suggests that His Majesty's Minister at Tangier shall ascertain whether the other foreign Representatives are now prepared to give their consent ..	73
128	Mr. G. Lowther ..	18 Tel.	19,	State engineer. Spanish Minister has asked for Mr. Lowther's support for Spanish candidate for post of assistant if engineer selected is a Frenchman	74
129	To Sir F. Bertie ..	157	19,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Conversation with French Ambassador respecting installation recently erected (see No. 88). Sir E. Grey pointed out that establishment of wireless telegraphy seemed under Algeciras Act to be subject to public competition, and drew attention to the priority attaching to the Cape Spartel Signal Station	74
130	Memorandum communicated to M. Cambon	Confidential	21,	Post of assistant State engineer in Morocco. Spanish Government have asked that His Majesty's Minister may support candidature of Spaniard, but, before replying, His Majesty's Government desire to know views of French Government. His Majesty's Government hope Spanish proposal will be favourably received .. .	75

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
131	Mr. G. Lowther ..	61	Mar. 16, 1907	Campaign against Raisuli. Reverse inflicted on Government troops by Beni Aros and Beni Ghorfet. Raisuli has requested an agent of his at Tangier to apply for French protection for him. Makhzen said to be at the end of their resources, and to have applied for a loan to various firms at Tangier	75
131*	„ „ ..	62	22,	Abolition of slavery. Sid-ben-Sliman not having replied to previous notes, the Doyen has addressed a further note urgently requesting assurances as to the intention of the Sherifian Government to deal with the matter. Transmits translation of note	76*
132	„ „ ..	13 Tel.	22,	State engineer. Refers to No. 128. To join French and Russian colleagues in supporting candidature of Spaniard for post of assistant	76
133	„ „ ..	19 Tel.	23,	Murder of French doctor at Morocco city. Reports	76
134	To Eastern Telegraph Company	..	23,	Wireless telegraphic communication between Tangier and Fez. Answers inquiries in No 111. Any concession should be applied for with due regard to procedure laid down in Algeciras Act	76
135	Mr. G. Lowther ..	21 Tel.	24,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. Refers to No. 133. British Consular Agent at Morocco city reports that foreigners were safe there on 20th March	77
136	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	59 Confidential	18,	Algeciras Conference. German Ambassador much incensed at article in "Revue des Deux Mondes"	77
137	Memorandum communicated privately by Count de Manneville	..	25,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp at Marrakesh. Supposed reason for outbreak. All other Europeans safe on 23rd March. Cruiser "Jeanne d'Arc" ordered to Tangier. Besides requiring reparation for the murder, French Government are going to demand the immediate execution of the provisions of the Algeciras Act relating to the organization of police in Moorish ports, and to give notice of their intention to establish police in the region of the Algeciras frontier ..	77
138	Mr. G. Lowther ..	22 Tel.	25,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Popp, agent of French Company, occupied with question, has suggested combination of French, German, British, and Spanish interests, and has discussed matter with German Minister	78
139	To M. Cambon ..	..	25,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Informs of letters received from British Telegraph Companies, and requests early expression of views of French Government ..	78
140	To Lloyd's ..	..	25,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Refers to No. 127. Sir E. Grey desires to defer any representation to Moorish Government pending result of discussion being carried on with French Government	79
141	Mr. Lister.. ..	149	25,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. Attitude of French press. Tendency to attribute responsibility to Germany	79

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
142	To M. Cambon ..	..	Mar. 26, 1907	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. Acknowledges No. 137. Expresses sympathy of His Majesty's Government, and hope that energetic measures contemplated by French Government will have beneficial effect	80
143	To Sir F. Bertie ..	176	26,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. French Minister has communicated Memorandum suggesting that Lloyd's should come to understanding with French Company, and that Spaniards, and perhaps Germans, should participate. Sir E. Grey expressed view that monopoly would be preferable to this	80
144	„ „ ..	177	26,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. French Minister has called to inform Sir E. Grey of measures being taken by French Government for occupation of Ujda	80
145	Mr. Lister.. ..	151	26,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. Official statement issued to effect that Ujda will be occupied until reparation has been made by Moorish Government	81
146	„ „	155	26,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. Conversation with Political Director respecting course of action decided upon by French Government (see No. 145). Attitude of Government generally approved, and resolution of support adopted unanimously by Chamber. Incloses extract from "Temps" recalling words pronounced by German Emperor regarding China in 1897 ..	81
147	Sir M. de Bunsen ..	11 Tel.	27,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. Reports conversation with Minister for Foreign Affairs, who states that French Government have informed him of intention to exact reparation. Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees as to co-operation of Spain with France, but is nervous at proposed occupation of Ujda by France	82
148	Mr. Lister.. ..	158 Confidential	27,	Occupation of Ujda. Details of force to be employed	83
149	„ „	159	27,	Murder of Dr. Mauchamp. Summary of debate in French Chamber	83
150	To Mr. G. Lowther ..	49	28,	Condition of prisons in Morocco. Incloses text of question and answer in House of Commons, and requests report	84
151	Mr. G. Lowther ..	24 Tel.	29,	Wireless telegraphy in Morocco. Refers to No. 138. French, German, and Spanish Ministers agreed as to basis on which international Company might be founded. M. Regnault anxious for participation of English firm..	84
152	Sir E. Egerton ..	56 Confidential	25,	State engineer. French Councillor of Embassy states that Signor Tittoni has admitted to him justice of French point of view, and he will urge upon Prince Bülow at Rapallo that this small question should not be allowed to create dissensions amongst Powers	84

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
153	Sir F. Bertie ..	165	Mar. 29, 1907	France and Germany. Forwards extract from "Matin" containing translation of article in "Berliner Tageblatt" suggesting that Germany should give France free hand in Morocco in return for some definite compensation in Near East..	85
154	Mr. G. Lowther ..	25 Tel.	31,	Attack on British Consular Agency at Marrakesh. Refers to Part 33, No. 8. Inquires if representation should be made ..	86

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 32.

[180] No. 1.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 2,* 1907.

I BELIEVE that negotiations between Raisuli and the Minister of War for actually in progress, and the chances of any resistance being made by Raisuli appear very remote.

The French Minister has demanded the settlement of claims arising out of Raisuli's Government and the surrender of the murderers of Charbonnier.

It is said that rather strong threats accompanied these demands.

I am informed by the French Minister that he will advise the bombardment of the village to which the murderers belong if they are not given up.

The last paragraph is Confidential.

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[181] No. 2.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 2,* 1907.

MR. WHITE'S despatch No. 212 of the 17th November and your telegram No. 35 of the 21st November.

Moorish interpretation of General Act of Algeciras.

Sid Torres has sent a fresh note, copy of which I am forwarding by post to-day, to the Spanish Minister, in which he asks for a reply to his note relative to the interpretation of certain Articles of the Act.

These objections and those originally presented show a slight difference.

M. Llaveria has referred to Madrid for instructions, as he has no authorization to make a reply on behalf of his Government and those of France and England.

No fresh instructions have been sent to the French Minister since the 21st November.

[43637]

No. 3.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 2, 1907.

REFERRING to your telegram No. 90 of the 29th ultimo, would it not be well to persuade your colleagues, if possible, to join in representation respecting the Valientes?

The action taken against Raisuli was, I presume, brought about to a great extent by the unanimous remonstrance lately made by the foreign Representatives at Tangier.

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[288]

No. 4.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 3.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 3, 1907.

PUNISHMENT of the Valientes.

In reply to your telegram No. 1 of the 2nd instant, I fear I should be unable to induce my colleagues to sign a joint note demanding the punishment of the Valientes. The Spaniards are the only nation who have suffered at their hands, and the Governor of Ceuta is now on good terms with them, having condoned their offence. There is no grievance at any other Legation against these brigands. The Raisuli question and the Valientes' offence are quite distinct matters.

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[435]

No. 5.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 3.)
Sir,

Madrid, January 2, 1907.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me a few days ago that, as soon as the ratifications of the Algeciras Act were deposited, he intended to call upon the Swiss Government to appoint the superior officer who is to act as Inspector-General of the new Morocco police force under Article 7 of the General Act. The next step will be to draw up the Police Regulations, and for this purpose Señor Perez Caballero thinks the best course would be for the new Inspector-General and the senior French and Spanish instructors to meet, preferably at Madrid, and draw up a draft set of Regulations, with which they could then proceed to Tangier in order to discuss them with the Morocco Minister for War or his delegate as required by Article 4. The completed Regulations would next be submitted to the foreign Representatives at Tangier, and a month later they would begin to take effect. All this will probably take some months, and in the meanwhile the question arises whether it will be necessary for the French and Spanish men-of-war to remain with their landing force on board at Tangier till the new police force is in working order.

On this point it is easy to see that Señor Perez Caballero would be glad of any pretext allowing the Spanish Government to withdraw at least a portion of their ships and infantry of marine. The French Ambassador hears that the German Ambassador is pressing the Foreign Minister to do so on the ground that everything is quiet at Tangier.

M. Jules Cambon, however, is strongly urging the retention of the joint naval force in the waters of Tangier at least till the completion of the new police force, and he tells Señor Perez Caballero that if the Spanish leading force suffers, as his Excellency is informed it does, from too close confinement in the Spanish ships, there will be no objection to a detachment being landed at Algeciras and kept there in readiness to be at once shipped to Tangier in case of need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

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[181]

No 6.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.*

Foreign Office, January 5, 1907.

MR. LOWTHER'S telegram No. 2.

Lowther has general instructions to co-operate with French colleague. I propose to give no further directions in this matter for the present unless French Government desire.

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[524]

No. 7.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 6.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 6, 1907.

ATTACK on Zinat.

Over 2,000 Government troops made an attack yesterday on Raisuli's stronghold at Zinat, but do not seem to have gained any advantage during the fighting, which lasted nearly all day, and cost them several casualties. As to the numbers of Raisuli's men, no estimate has been formed.

To-day the attack is to be renewed.

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[528]

No. 8.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7, 1907.)

(No. 254.)
Sir,

Tangier, December 27, 1906.

WITH reference to Mr. White's telegram No. 80 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Copenhagen stating that, the matter being one in which Denmark is but slightly interested, his Government will abstain from taking any part in the discussions in regard to the regulations to be framed under the General Act of Algeciras, in the same manner as they abstained from taking part in the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Count Raben-Levetzau to Mr. White.

Monsieur,

Copenhague, le 20 *Décembre*, 1906.

PAR votre lettre en date du 28 Novembre dernier, vous avez bien voulu m'informer que les délibérations sur certaines questions concernant les affaires Marocaines ont commencé, et me demander des instructions à ce sujet.

En réponse j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Gouvernement du Roi s'étant abstenu de prendre part à la Conférence d'Algésiras, la même ligne de conduite me semble s'imposer pour les délibérations actuelles, qui ne présentent d'ailleurs qu'un intérêt minime pour le Danemark.

Veuillez, &c.,
(Signé) RABEN-LEVETZAU.

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[529]

No. 9.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7, 1907.)

(No. 255.)
Sir,

Tangier, December 28, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 253 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that Sid Guebbas, after having camped for some days at Bubana, soon discovered that the spot was unsuitable from military and other standpoints and

decided to move. No signs of activity were, however, visible, and the native and foreign population were inclined to believe that this Mehalla, which had arrived with such a flourish of trumpets, was destined to share the fate of its predecessors and gradually vanish away. No intelligence department seems to exist with this force, and no machinery whatever to get into touch with the tribes. Ben Mansour, the Khalifa of Raisuli, who has occupied the market-place at the gates of the town for months past, remained unmolested, in spite of the presence in the immediate neighbourhood of some 3,000 Makhzen troops. Raisuli's messages continued to be of an arrogant nature, and those who did not fear his menaces were alarmed at the depredations the army might commit when money became scarce and pay irregular.

Yesterday, however, Sid Guebbas moved a part of his camp to a spot about 3 miles to the east of Tangier, and more in the direction of Raisuli's stronghold, and the remainder he encamped at the town gates. Arrangements were made for the calling in informally of a few of the head men of the Fahs tribe to communicate to them the dismissal of Raisuli. Sid Guebbas spoke to these men very earnestly, and, according to a European who was present, in very strong language. He explained that Raisuli had disappointed the Sultan, and had committed illegal acts that the Makhzen could not tolerate; that he was now endeavouring to oppose reforms which His Majesty had sanctioned. The Minister of War is said to have even gone so far as to point to the advantage of European civilization over the backward condition of the country, and to warn them of the danger to their country of supporting such a man as Raisuli. Some scepticism was shown until the letter of the Sultan was produced, which declared that Raisuli was no longer their chief. The men then demanded to know who had been named over them. At a given signal the Governor of the town, Sid Kaddor Bel Ghazi, entered the tent, and Sid Guebbas declared him Kaïd of the Fahs. The tribesmen were apparently satisfied, took the oath of allegiance, and obtained a free pardon for their past misdeeds. This morning Ben Mansour, Raisuli's Khalifa, after protestations that he had done nothing beyond serving the duly appointed Kaïd Raisuli, declared that he was ready to abandon his position and submit himself to the new Kaïd. He then, in company of the Commander of the troops and other high officials, attended prayers at the mosque, and with a free pardon returned to his house.

Two Shereefian letters were also to-day read in the mosque informing the people that Raisuli was deposed, and that Sid Kaddor Bel Ghazi was appointed.

It now remains to be seen what effect will be produced by the action of the Sultan on Raisuli himself, and whether he will give himself up to the Makhzen or take to flight.

It is satisfactory that the first act towards the removal of this scourge from this district has been closed without any bloodshed, or, indeed, any untoward incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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[777] No. 10.

The Marquis de Villalobar to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January 7.*)

(Translation.)
Señor Ministro, *Spanish Embassy, London (undated).*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith, in accordance with instructions from my Government, a certified copy of the document of the deposition of ratifications of the General Act of the International Conference of Algeciras.*

I also have the honour to inform your Excellency that immediately after the verification of this deposit the Foreign Minister of His Catholic Majesty telegraphed to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne to ask him, officially, and in accordance with the decision taken at the closing session of the Conference, to request the Swiss Government to undertake the nomination of an Inspector-General of the Moorish police, and to recognize the competence of the Federal Tribunal of Lausanne in certain questions and disputes in regard to the future State Bank of Morocco.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) VILLALOBAR.

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* Not printed.

[780] No. 11.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January 7.*)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 7, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to report the destruction to-day of Raisuli's stronghold. Raisuli himself escaped, but his destination is so far a secret.

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[288] No. 12.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 7, 1907.*

VALIENTE. Your telegram No. 3 of the 3rd instant.

We must avoid becoming involved in any punitive measures ourselves, but if, taking into consideration the position of Raisuli and the demands of the French for the capture of Charbonnier's murderers, you think the present moment is opportune, there is no objection to the representation proposed in your telegram No. 90 of the 29th December, 1906. You must, however, be careful to word your communication in such a way that, if the demand is not complied with, the Legation will not be placed in a false position.

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[811] No. 13.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January 8.*)

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Tangier, January 2, 1907.*

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 212 of the 17th November, I have the honour to report that the Moorish Commissioner has now addressed a note to the Spanish Minister calling attention to the fact that the document handed by the Makhzen to M. Malmusi, containing the former's interpretation of certain Articles of the Algeciras Act, had remained without an answer.

By the courtesy of M. Llaveria I am able to supply a copy of this note, together with its inclosure, mentioning the Articles in question. The latter document does not correspond exactly with the document furnished by M. Malmusi, there being a slight difference, as you will perceive, as regards Article XVIII, as well as an addition made at the end of the statement.

The Spanish Minister has referred this note to his Government, and has informed me that the instructions which he received at the beginning of November directed him to concert with his English and French colleagues as to the terms of the reply to be made to the Moorish Government, but did not direct him to reply on behalf of his own or our Government. Since that date he has received no further instructions, and M. Regnault has received no fresh instructions since the 21st November.

The Spanish Minister does not appear to have any knowledge of the replies made by the other Powers in regard to the Moorish interpretation, and he is fully alive to the danger that would be presented were the Spanish Government to transmit the reply of some of the Powers while omitting those of others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Sid Mohamed Torres to M. Llaveria.

(Traduction.)
(Après compliments d'usage.) *Tanger, le 10 Kada, 1324 (26 Décembre, 1906).*

NOUS portons à votre connaissance que lorsque le Ministre d'Italie se rendit à la Cour Chérifienne en qualité d'Ambassadeur, portant avec lui l'Acte de la Conférence d'Algésiras, le Makhzen eut quelques doutes sur quelques-uns de ces Articles, et M. Malmusi offrit qu'elles (*sic*) seraient examinées par les Représentants étrangers pour les éclaircir.

A son retour à Tanger il informa le Makhzen qu'il avait soumis l'affaire à tous les Représentants amis, et promit de rendre compte du résultat, conformément à l'engagement pris par lui qu'il s'occuperait que l'on donnasse à l'affaire la solution désirée. Après ceci il quitta Tanger pour se rendre ailleurs sans donner aucune réponse.

En conséquence nous espérons que votre Excellence prêtera son attention sur les Articles douteux qui sont annotés dans l'exposé ci-joint, et qu'elle satisfera le désir du Makhzen Chérifien de les éclaircir, comme il correspond, toutefois, que la Présidence de la Conférence d'Algésiras fut conférée à votre Gouvernement respecté par les autres Gouvernements amis.

Nous attendons votre réponse au sujet de ce désir.

Paix, &c.

(Signé) MOHAMED BEN LARBI TORRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Memorandum by Makhzen respectiny certain Articles in Algeciras Act.

Louange à Dieu Unique.

EXPOSÉ des questions douteuses de l'Acte Général de la Conférence d'Algésiras au sujet desquelles le Makhzen avait demandé des éclaircissements et dont l'Ambassadeur s'était engagé de traiter et achever d'après les termes suivants :—

Article III. Si le Makhzen désire remplacer un des officiers instructeurs ou le transférer d'un port à l'autre, il l'effectuera.

Le Makhzen interprète cet Article dans le sens que ni la France ni l'Espagne auront d'autres privilèges que ceux des autres Puissances.

Article IV. Le Makhzen demande qu'on précise que les officiers instructeurs seront des Européens et pas des indigènes provenant des Colonies, connaissant parfaitement la langue Arabe. Les ordres de commandement seront en langue Arabe pour la meilleure exécution des exercices militaires par les soldats indigènes. A l'expiration du délai de cinq ans, les instructeurs retourneront dans leur pays avec la reconnaissance du Makhzen, et ils seront remplacés par des officiers sujets du Sultan.

Article IX. D'après cet Article, le Makhzen entend que la nature des réclamations sur lesquelles l'Inspecteur-Général devra faire une enquête sera spécifiée dans le sens qu'il s'agit de réclamations concernant la police.

Article XVIII. Le Makhzen demande qu'on déclare que le permis pour la vente des armes de chasse et de luxe par ses sujets lui soit réservé.

Article XXV. Étant de notoriété publique que les intérêts ne sont appliqués que sur les sommes effectivement retirées, le Makhzen demande que l'on déclare que ces intérêts ne seront comptés que sur les sommes prélevées jusqu'à concurrence des deux tiers du capital de la Banque.

Article LXVII. La Conférence ayant exprimé le vœu qu'on réduise les droits d'exportation sur les grains, le Makhzen répond que s'il lui était possible, il le ferait certainement, mais qu'étant donné que les besoins et circonstances du pays ne sont pas favorables, il demande que les droits actuels soient maintenus.

Article XCVII. Le but du Comité Permanent (Comité des Douanes) étant de surveiller constamment ce service jusqu'à son fonctionnement normal, le Makhzen souhaiterait qu'on déclare plus clairement, en Arabe, qu'une fois l'organisation achevée (dans les trois ans du délai accordé), le Comité sera dissout.

Dans le cas où le Comité n'aurait pu atteindre son but dans la période de trois ans, le Makhzen proposerait un nouveau délai suffisant pour la parfaite réorganisation des services des Douanes dont il s'agit.

Le 40 pour cent de recettes des Douanes ainsi que l'excédent du 60 pour cent sera encaissé par la Banque durant la période accordée pour l'organisation du service des Douanes stipulé dans l'Article XCVII de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras.

A l'expiration de ce délai le Makhzen pourra, à son gré, faire ou non ces versements à la Banque.

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[801]

No. 14.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Madrid, January 5, 1907.

THE Madrid press publishes a list of Spanish officers and non-commissioned officers ("officiers et sous-officiers") whom it is proposed in due course to send to Morocco as instructors of the new police force under Article III of the Algeciras Act. The list comprises:

For Casablanca—A Major ("Commandante"), a Captain and 3 sergeants (infantry).

For Tangier—A Captain, a First Lieutenant, and 3 sergeants (infantry).

For Tetuan—A Captain, a First Lieutenant, and 3 sergeants (infantry), 1 Artillery sergeant.

For Laraiche—A Captain of Artillery, a First Lieutenant, and 3 sergeants of infantry.

It is announced that M. de Broncart will be the Swiss inspector.

A copy of the list as published is inclosed.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

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[734]

No. 15.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 8, 1907.

ALGECIRAS Act.

Referring to your telegram No. 2 of the 3rd instant, I am informed by the Spanish Ambassador that the refusal of his Government to admit the correctness of the Moorish interpretation is still maintained.

I expressed to his Excellency my satisfaction of the attitude of the Spanish Government.

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[985]

No. 16.

Sir G. Bonham to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 10.)

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Berne, January 8, 1907.

THE Swiss Government were duly notified on the 31st ultimo of the resolution arrived at by the Conference of Algeciras, that the Federal Government should be asked to appoint a Swiss officer as Inspector-General of Police in Morocco, and of the further proposal that in all disputes between the National Bank of Morocco and its creditors or shareholders the Federal Tribunal should be allowed to act as a Supreme Court.

These are the principal questions which have been discussed in diplomatic circles since my return, and yesterday I received a visit from M. Révoil, the French Ambassador, who wished to speak to me on the subject, and who asked me, in case I had the opportunity, to urge on M. Müller, the newly appointed President, the importance of losing no time in appointing an Inspector-General, as he had been led to believe that he wished to defer a decision until the further question relating to the Tribunal could be decided.

The two questions do not, it appears, stand on the same footing. There are doubts as to the competency of the Federal Tribunal to undertake the duties assigned to it by the Algeciras Conference, as they are not contemplated in the Statutes under which the Tribunal was founded. A vote of the Chambers will therefore be necessary to enable it to accept the duties and responsibilities involved.

The appointment of an Inspector-General of Police is on a different footing, and can, I understand, be decided by the Federal Government.

These views have been confirmed by M. Müller, whose weekly reception I attended

* Not printed.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

to-day. He had, he said, already referred the question relating to the Federal Tribunal to the Tribunal itself at Lausanne, and that although the members have no doubt that the question will have to be submitted to the Chambers, some are of opinion that a new Law, involving the possibility of a *referendum*, will be necessary, whereas others consider that a Resolution passed by the National Assembly will be sufficient.

He had accordingly referred the question to the Department of Justice for a Report, which would in due time be given, but he entertained no doubt that the matter would have to be referred to the Chambers, which do not meet till April.

The question of the appointment of an Inspector-General would, he thought, be settled more expeditiously. It had been referred to the War Department, but rather as a formality. On the Report being received it would be laid before the Federal Council, and the appointment made in two or three weeks' time.

I found that there was no necessity to urge M. Müller to avoid delay, as he said he had many reasons for wishing the appointment to be made as soon as possible.

Several names have been mentioned in connection with the appointment, among them being Colonel Fama, who accompanied President Forrer on his visit to Italy, and who is said to be favoured by the French Government, and M. Boucart, formerly Swiss Minister in London. Colonel Ripon and M. Lois are also spoken of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

[1308] No. 17.

Memorandum communicated by Spanish Embassy, January 11, 1907.

(Translation.)

THE Minister Plenipotentiary of His Catholic Majesty in Tangier, in view of the fact that Spain was the nation which presided at the Conference of Algeciras, has received a note from the Delegate of the Sultan, asking for an explanation of the dubious points enumerated in the despatch of Signor Malmusi, copy of which was sent to His Majesty's Embassy in London in a Royal Circular Order of the 22nd August last.

An examination of the points upon which Sid Mohammed Torres asks for explanation or modification has revealed that a new point has been mentioned in these terms:—

"Art. 33. The 40 per cent. of import duties, as well as the surplus of 60 per cent., shall be placed in the bank during the time fixed for the organization and good administration of the Customs, in accordance with Article 97 of the General Act. After that date the Maghzen shall be at liberty to place these receipts in the bank or not."

As Sid Mohammed Torres has invoked the fact that Spain presided at the Conference as the reason for addressing the above-mentioned request to the Minister of His Catholic Majesty in Tangier, the Spanish Government are obliged to bring the matter to the notice of the other Powers concerned, in consequence of which the Minister in Tangier communicated a copy of the document to the Representatives in Tangier of all the countries which signed the Act of Algeciras. The Government of His Catholic Majesty are compelled to reject the interpretations of the Maghzen or rather to decline to discuss them. M. Regnault, owing to instructions which appear to have been communicated to him by his Government, proposes that if no agreement can be arrived at with the other Powers as to an identic answer, the Spanish Government shall notify to the Maghzen, in their own name and in that of England and France, that the three Powers are agreed in declining to discuss these interpretations.

If all the Signatory Powers should agree in refusing all discussion, the Government of His Catholic Majesty will be ready to act as intermediary for conveying to the Maghzen their joint decision, as being the Government to whom fell the duty of presiding at the Conference. But from the moment when differences of opinion arise as to the reply itself, it seems natural that each Government separately should notify their views to the Sultan, because if this procedure were not followed, our own opinion would lose force in being communicated together with a contrary opinion.

The Government of His Catholic Majesty deem it desirable that the Representatives of the other Powers signatory to the Act of Algeciras, or at least the Representatives of Russia and Portugal, who have always been on our side at the Conference, should agree to return a negative answer, and that in any case the Ministers of Spain, England, and France should communicate simultaneously, and in the same terms the opinion of their Governments to the Delegate of the Sultan in Tangier.

[1265] No. 18.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Tangier, January 2, 1907.

I TOOK an opportunity of informing my French colleague that the Danish Government had decided to take no part in the meetings of the Diplomatic Body and the Moorish Delegates for the purpose of discussing and elaborating the Regulations arising out of the Algeciras Act, as reported in my despatch No. 254 of the 27th ultimo. In thanking me for this information, M. Regnault stated that it was his intention to offer the strongest opposition to any one Minister representing more than one Power at these meetings.

The German Minister here represents the Netherlands as well as Sweden, and, although the question has not yet been raised, it is possible that he may urge his right to vote on behalf of those countries as well as for Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[1267] No. 19.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 5.)

Sir,

Tangier, January 5, 1907.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Circular despatch of the 9th April, 1906, I have the honour to transmit my Report of the events of interest in this country during the year 1906.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Report by Mr. G. Lowther for the Year 1906.

THE year 1906 opened in Morocco with its native and foreign population holding various views as to the approaching Conference, called ostensibly to bring about reforms in this country. The Makhzen, while declaring that they were earnestly desirous of seeing the introduction of reforms, sincerely hoped that none would be brought about, and had full confidence that the Powers would never be able to agree. The Moorish public in general neither knew of nor, in cases where they did, cared about the Conference. The foreign inhabitants shared with a few Diplomatic Representatives the impression that some good might come to the country, and that a check might be put on the rapacity of the Makhzen by the reforms introduced at Algeciras. The more shrewd held a strong conviction that the Conference was not called for the object of helping Morocco or her people, but rather with the view of clearing the cloudy political horizon in Europe, and that the introduction of any real reforms could only with the greatest difficulty be accomplished under international control, and so would probably not be introduced at all. Views on approaching Algeciras Conference.

2. The financial condition of the country was certainly not flourishing. The French loan of 62,000,000 fr. made in 1904 was said to be exhausted. The German "temporary advance" of 500,000*l.* of 1905, which had given rise to so much discussion as being in contravention of the French priority right secured to them under the Loan Contract of June 1904, was half consumed, and the properties to be offered by the Moorish Government as security had not yet been designated. Loans.

3. During all the early part of the year there was a good deal of unrest in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier. Raisuli, the brigand who captured Mr. Perdicaris in 1904, and who was then, as a condition of the release of Mr. Perdicaris, made Governor of the Fahs Province, the country round Tangier, gradually increased his Insecurity near Tangier and Raisuli's action.

authority, though owing to his exaggerated demands for contributions his popularity did not increase. Some of the Anjera men were reported to have been murdered by his orders, and the inhabitants of Tangier were constantly threatened with reprisals on the part of the Anjera. The danger was even present of their disagreements being settled by the simplest of expedients, the capture of a Christian, to be followed by demands on the part of the aggrieved party, the Christian being held as hostage pending satisfaction. Considerable caution was constantly observed by foreign residents. Raisuli, who until this year had made no attempt to exercise jurisdiction inside the town, but only up to its walls, in April enlarged his sphere of action, and sent men into the town, who in cold blood shot two brothers of the Schott family, belonging to the Anjera tribe, who were distasteful to him. The said Raisuli also gave this and other Legations a good deal of trouble by removing hedges and landmarks belonging to foreigners, and acting without the intermediary of the Sultan's Commissioner. Indeed, he openly declared that of Treaties he knew nothing, and that he intended to regard foreigners and natives alike. He was as good as his word, the Sultan's Representative being unable to check him.

Mar Chica.

4. A good deal of stir was made in the early months of the year over the Mar Chica affair. It is an inland lake immediately to the east of Melilla, where, with the assistance of some French merchants, the Pretender established contraband stores for supplying himself and that part of Morocco with arms and provisions to the detriment of the Spanish at Melilla. Called upon by the Sultan to check French subjects in this illicit trade, the French Minister stated that he had no power to do so, and that the Sultan should himself take it in hand. This he was materially unable to do, but the French rendering him some assistance by exercising a certain control over the smuggling vessels, the store eventually collapsed, the Moorish Government sending a steamer with some small guns to check the trade. The incident made more stir than it deserved, as the Conference of Algeciras was sitting, and it was important for France to do nothing to incur the displeasure of Spain, who was suffering from the existence of this trade.

Algeciras Convention.

5. The "Acte Général" of the Algeciras Conference was signed at that place by all the Delegates, except the Moorish, the stipulation being inserted that M. Malmusi, the Italian Minister, and doyen of the Diplomatic Body here, should proceed to Fez and present the instrument to His Majesty for acceptance. The general tenour of the Articles of the Convention were soon known at Fez, and, wise counsels prevailing, it was given out that the Sultan would place no obstacle in the way of signing. This view was, however, soon modified, the Sultan being represented as stating that he would require time to study the Act more carefully, and suggesting that a stipulation should be introduced to the effect that foreign assistance should be dispensed with as soon as in His Majesty's opinion it was no longer required; that the Convention in certain parts should not be applied until the country was more in a condition to assimilate such radical changes.

M. Malmusi left for Fez on the 24th May. Throughout the country the Convention was received with doubt and suspicion, it being a mystery to the large majority. They attributed the disasters that had come upon the country to the rebellion of Bu Hamara, the Pretender, and to the support he was supposed to have received from the French. The formation of the police was objected to by the Kaïds, with whom it might come into conflict. The nationality of the instructors was a matter of indifference to them, except that they despise Spaniards, thinking that they, like themselves, are open to bribery, and they hate the French as their possible future rulers. The Oomana (civil officials) merely wondered whether the customs receipts were likely to be augmented, and whether there would still be an opening for enriching themselves, but the idea of an assembly of Christians to advise on the affairs of the faithful was naturally distasteful. Their vanity was wounded and their avarice alarmed. The functions of the State Bank were quite beyond their comprehension. But the general idea, both amongst military and civilian employés, was that the Makhzen would be ingenious enough to discover some plan by which the stipulations of the Convention would be avoided. Kismet was, however, as usual, the key to the general feeling. M. Malmusi did not waste much time at Fez in discussing the "Acte Général." Some attempt was made to induce him to lay the matter before the Notables, and a good deal of opposition was shown for some days by a certain section of the Makhzen, headed by the Tazzi group; but M. Malmusi showed much firmness, and, the Sultan's "Dahir" accepting, the Convention was signed on the 18th June. A note addressed by Ben Sliman to M. Malmusi followed, expressing the hope that the Powers would show leniency in the application of the reforms, and leave them entirely to the Sultan

t the end of five years, and a document was handed to M. Malmusi embodying His Majesty's interpretation of certain Articles of the Act. This document was eventually anded to the Spanish Government, who communicated it to the Powers, but no eply has, up to the present time, been made to the Sultan.

"Consuelo."

6. In the month of June some further evidence appeared of the lack of authority n the districts of the north of Morocco. A British vessel—Gibraltar register—the "Consuelo," was captured with her cargo by the brigands Valiente, who had made themselves famous in the autumn of the preceding year by the capture of some British officers near Ceuta. On this occasion they demanded 2,000 dollars for the return of the two sailors held and for the vessel and cargo. The Governor of Ceuta, who had been gradually making friends with the Valientes, obtained the release of the vessel and a small part of the cargo, but it was too late to save her, and she broke up, the sailors having been released.

"Craighall."

A British vessel, the "Craighall," went ashore in a fog off Ceres Point, and salvage operations were much interfered with by the natives, who fired on the men on board the "Craighall" and the salvage vessels. As the Moorish authorities expressed themselves unable to do anything, His Majesty's ship "Amethyst" was sent from Gibraltar, and the "Craighall" was successfully got off.

Murder of Charbonnier.

7. Also in June took place the murder of a young Frenchman, Charbonnier, on the each within a very short distance of Tangier. He was known as a harmless and ard-working young man, and there was no question of his personality having provoked he outrage. From all the evidence forthcoming, it would appear that an attempt was nade by some Anjera people to capture Charbonnier, and, this failing, for some reason or another they shot him at short range. The local authorities behaved casually about it, and the French Government sent some vessels of war to support the following demands:—

(1.) Discovery, if possible, and execution of the murderer or murderers.
(2.) Full apologies to the French Minister.
(3.) Payment of 100,000 fr. to family of victim.
(4.) Granting a plot of land on which would be erected a monument to the victim. The French Government also seized this opportunity for pressing some matters in which they had, in spite of many promises received, failed to obtain satisfaction. The murderers were never discovered.

Murder of Duas.

8. In the same month news reached Tangier of the murder of Duas, the Governor of Anjera. This official had, some months before, instigated the murder of some of Deylan's family, an Anjera Notable, and it was more than probable that this was done out of revenge. Duas was the officially appointed Representative of the Sultan, but his authority had recently been much reduced.

Flogging of Russian protégé.

9. As an indication of the insubordination reigning, it may not be out of place to mention a case in which a Russian protégé was flogged by Raisuli's Khalifa in the market-place in view of the Legations, that individual being fully aware that the individual was protected by a foreign Power. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires, not having the means of supporting any extensive demands, contented himself with requiring verbal apologies from the Sultan's Commissioner. As these were given rather tardily, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires demanded that they should be presented in a written form, and this was promptly complied with and the incident closed.

Disturbances in Tangier.

10. Early in August Kaïd Belghazi, who had shown energy and courage as Governor of Tetuan, arrived at Tangier as Governor, and it was hoped that he would re-establish the authority of the Makhzen in this district as he had done at Tetuan. The very day of his arrival an opportunity was offered for a display of activity. Some Anjera tribesmen, members of the Schott family, and their friends came to the market and shot one of Raisuli's men who had previously killed their relative, as mentioned above. Raisuli's deputy at once gathered his men, attacked the Anjera party, and many shots were fired in the market-place. The new Basha at once with his soldiers pursued the Anjera tribesmen for some distance. Unfortunately, however, this has proved to be the only occasion on which the Basha has been permitted to make good his reputation. Since that time he has been, no doubt under Makhzen orders, compelled to submit to insulting treatment by Raisuli and his deputy, and has not been allowed to take any steps to exert authority or to maintain order outside the town walls. Even inside the walls Raisuli has encroached upon his jurisdiction.

Towards the end of August a brother of the Vizier for Foreign Affairs arrived from Fez with a body of troops to be organized as a properly equipped and disciplined police force. Again, however, the people of Tangier suffered disappointment, as it was soon

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

found that Raisuli was still to be permitted to act as he pleased, the new troops being of no more use than those previously here.

Mulai Hafid.

11. In the meantime rumours which had been current became more persistent to the effect that Mulai Hafid, the Viceroy of Marrakesh, was intriguing with the powerful Governors of the southern tribes to be proclaimed Sultan. Considerable anxiety was caused at the Shereefian Court by these reports, and it was announced that the Sultan was proceeding to his southern capital, but Mulai Hafid sent messages to the Sultan protesting his loyalty, and the report of the Sultan's return to Marrakesh tended to check such intrigues as may have been on foot. The southern tribes, however, remained disturbed, and inter-tribal fighting was frequent, the caravan roads being unsafe.

Attack on Mogador.

12. Kaïd Anflus, who governs a district adjacent to Mogador, established a number of posts on the roads leading to that town and levied heavy tolls on the goods passing. Complaints made to the Court led to no results, as Kaïd Anflus ignored the orders he received. Early in September this Kaïd entered Mogador and caused a panic amongst the Jewish population by ordering all Jews residing in the Moorish quarter to vacate their houses at once and remove to the Ghetto, which was already much overcrowded. The Governor of Mogador, upon being appealed to, declared himself unable to oppose Kaïd Anflus, and messengers were sent to Tangier—by the Governor to Sid Torres, and by the Consular officers to their Legations—begging that troops be sent at once to protect the town against Anflus. A French cruiser was dispatched at once to Mogador for the protection of foreigners, and shortly after a steamer left for that place with troops. On their arrival, however, they found that Kaïd Anflus had already left the town and confidence was restored.

Disturbances at Dar-al-Baida.

13. Later in the month Dar-al-Baida was the scene of disorders. Ma-el-Aineen, a Shereef of Shinghit, who visits the Sultan annually accompanied by a number of his wild followers, arrived at that place on his return from Fez, where, as usual, he had been well received and loaded with presents. A dispute arose between some of these men and the native employés of a French blacksmith, and the former, after sacking the shop, went through the town insulting, threatening, and even beating Europeans.

These same men were, later on, the cause of disturbances at Marrakesh. They first insulted and assaulted Europeans in that city and then ill-treated the natives. Eventually the patience of the townspeople was exhausted and some of Ma-el-Aineen's men experienced rough handling, which made them more cautious in their behaviour.

In the meantime the condition of the southern tribes remained unsatisfactory and the roads unsafe. A Frenchman was attacked on the road from Marrakesh to Mogador, many shots being fired at him by men sent by the Governor of Tekna. He was wounded in the thigh and compelled to go to the Governor's house, where he was detained until a declaration was extorted from him exonerating the Kaïd and his men. It appears that a plot had been laid for his murder on the way back to Marrakesh, but happily it miscarried. In consequence of the demands of the French Legation, the Governor of Tekna and those implicated with him in the affair were subsequently arrested by the Viceroy of Marrakesh. The German Legation also preferred a complaint against this Governor, and both Legations claim the credit for his dismissal.

Attack on Arzila.

14. Early in October a small body of mountaineers and others under the leadership of friends of Raisuli named Berian and Widan made a sudden attack on Arzila, put the garrison to flight, and obtained possession of their arms and ammunition. They assumed control of the town, and allowed the Governor to depart after having been a close prisoner in his house for a few days. Appeals for assistance were made to the foreign Representatives and to Sid Torres by the Jewish population of Arzila, but the Moorish authorities frankly stated that they believed the attack had been planned by Raisuli and that they were quite powerless to do anything except through him. It is difficult to arrive at the true facts, but it would appear that Berian and Widan, once in possession of Arzila, decided to keep for themselves what they had won and not hand it over to Raisuli. In any case Raisuli collected a force and marched towards Arzila, but before his arrival Berian and his party had already been defeated by the people of the town, who had risen against them. Raisuli took possession of Arzila and applied to the Sultan to be appointed Governor of that place and the adjoining tribes.

Not receiving a satisfactory reply, and probably fearing to remain at Arzila, Raisuli returned to his home at Zinat.

Raisuli's high-handed proceedings.

15. Since that time Raisuli and his deputy, who had his office in the market-place at Tangier, have continued their high-handed proceedings, exercising jurisdiction over foreigners and their property in contravention of Treaty stipulations and levying blackmail, which many have preferred to pay to secure immunity from molestation.

The Spanish Company who supply the town with electric light objected to pay

a sum of money demanded by Raisuli's deputy, and as a result had their machinery stopped through being deprived of the use of water from their own well. The Moorish authorities being unable to oppose Raisuli's deputy, the Spanish Company were obliged in the end to pay the sum demanded and surrender one of two wells they owned on the beach. Raisuli also gave orders that no sales of real property outside the walls of Tangier should take place without his consent, and threatened to punish any notaries public who recorded such sales. The Sultan having previously given orders that sales effected by authority of Raisuli would not be valid, and notice to this effect having been communicated to the foreign Representatives by Sid Torres, this move of Raisuli practically put a stop to all sales of real property.

At a meeting of the foreign Representatives held towards the end of November, it was unanimously decided that the doyen should address a letter to Sid-ben-Sliman, drawing attention to the intolerable state of affairs at Tangier, and demanding that serious steps should be taken to put a stop to it and to assure the security of foreigners and their property and their enjoyment of their Treaty rights. To this note a reply was received couched in fairly satisfactory terms, but the Corps Diplomatique thought well to send a further letter to the Court demanding the removal of Raisuli.

Demand for removal of Raisuli.

16. A letter had been previously addressed to the Court with reference to the disturbances at Dar-al-Baida and Mogador, but was left without reply. Owing to these various incidents and the general insolent bearing of the Moorish population towards Europeans, ships of war had been sent to Tangier for the protection of foreigners by the French and Spanish Governments, who recognized their responsibilities in this respect arising out of the Algeciras Act, which intrusted to them the organization of the police at the ports. The two Governments presented a note to the various Governments explaining the conditions under which the presence of their vessels at Tangier seemed to be necessary, and laying down the conditions that would guide their action.

Dispatch of army to Tangier.

17. Alarmed by the presence of these vessels and the talk of troops being landed from them in case of necessity, the Sultan gave orders for the dispatch to Tangier of a body of troops under the Minister for War. His Majesty was enabled to form this expedition by the grant of a new loan of 2,000,000 fr. by the French banks who had made the previous loan.

Discussion of Regulations arising out of the Algeciras Act.

18. At the end of September, Sid Torres addressed a note to the doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, informing him that Sid Mokri and two other officials had arrived from Fez to be associated with himself as the Moorish Delegates to discuss with the foreign Representatives the Regulations and other matters reserved for settlement at Tangier under the Algeciras Act. The general opinion of the Representatives being that the formal discussions could not commence until after the Act had been ratified, the matter was referred to the various Governments, and by the end of November, all the Representatives having received authorization to take part in an unofficial discussion of these matters, the first meeting for that purpose was held on the 24th of that month, when various Sub-Commissions were appointed to draft regulations on various matters to be submitted subsequently to the Representatives and Delegates at a plenary meeting.

American and German Missions to Fez.

19. During the course of the autumn the American and German Ministers proceeded to Fez to present their letters. This was the first American Minister who had been to the Court. Nothing interesting transpired with regard to these Missions. The United States' Minister is said to have urged the payment of a considerable number of claims, and the German Minister returned protesting that he had given the Sultan and his Ministers very good advice. There is no doubt that he was extremely well received.

Sultan's army at Tangier.

20. On the 21st December the army under the Minister of War arrived in the neighbourhood of Tangier. Its presence did not at the outset increase public confidence, some fear being inspired on the one side by the presence of what was thought to be a starving rabble, and on the other by the possibility of Raisuli rendering the presence of the army futile by capturing a foreigner of position. Some fear was also felt that circumstances might bring about the landing of foreign troops, which might incite the natives to an anti-foreign movement. Sid Guebbas, after some reflection, caused the Sultan's letter dismissing Raisuli from his post of Governor of the Fahs to be read in the mosque, and the tribes in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier at once deserted Raisuli's cause.

British claims.

21. British claims, which are very numerous, though not very important, have unfortunately not been much advanced during the year 1906. Indeed, but little attention is paid by the Makhzen to these, except on the occasion of a Mission to the Court, and several claims were disposed of on the occasion of the Mission to Fez in 1905.

Conclusion.

The subject has consequently been omitted from the above Report.

22. The year may be said to have been an unfavourable one generally for Morocco. The Sultan's authority, already on the decline, was still further weakened. The Pretender continued to give trouble, and the constant dispatch of small forces to cope with him was a drain on the ill-filled coffers of the Exchequer. The Governors of the south were out of hand, and in the north Raisuli's power and authority assumed almost alarming proportions. Small loans were made to the Makhzen which provided for immediate wants, but the general decay continued, and there is little indication of the advent of either energetic or honest men to put an end to the "slump."

The customs receipts showed a decrease, and robbery on the part of Customs officials became more general than before. The French have certainly added to their unpopularity, if that were possible, and there have been more acts of aggression against them than against other foreigners, and satisfaction has only in rare cases been obtained. On the other hand, the German star is for the moment in the ascendent, and the advice of the German Minister is freely given, although not so freely acted upon, the Moorish Government, as is their custom, preferring a policy of delay and procrastination to anything definite. The year 1907 may be one of great changes for this country, but too much must not be expected, and although the Makhzen may encourage the introduction of certain reforms that may bring grist to their mill, those that appear to offer no direct or immediate advantage will be stoutly resisted.

[1268]

No. 20.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Tangier, January 6, 1907.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 255 of the 28th December, 1906, I have the honour to report that, after the reading of the Shereefian letters deposing Raisuli, the Governor awaited the submission of the tribes, without whose assistance, or at least neutrality, no attack on Raisuli could be attempted.

The week was passed in receiving and pardoning representatives of different tribes, and only two incidents of interest occurred. On the one hand Ben Mansur, the ex-Khalifa of Raisuli, and now on the Government side, captured and brought into Tangier the Cadi of a neighbouring village who was known to be a warm partisan of Raisuli. This act seemed to give some courage to the people of the Fahs, who saw in it the commencement of the downfall of Raisuli; on the other hand the latter soon took his revenge, and in the night carried off three prominent inhabitants of a village within 3 miles of the Government outpost.

On the 3rd instant the army, consisting of over 2,000 infantry and 2 mountain guns, 4 Maxims, and some 500 cavalry, left Tangier and encamped close to Raisuli's stronghold, which was attacked yesterday. Sid Mohammed-ben-Bagdadi, an officer of some repute, was in command. Fighting continued with but little result throughout the day, the work of the mountain guns being lamentably defective, only one shot striking Raisuli's fortress or house, and to-day an Algerian artilleryman in the Government service is to take charge of the guns. The net result of the day's fighting would seem to be that neither side gained any advantage, though the Government troops, far outnumbering Raisuli's men, must have lost prestige. No true estimate of the numbers acting under Raisuli's orders can be formed as they were all under cover in the rocky stronghold. Sid Mohammed-ben-Bagdadi was eventually wounded, and the troops running short of cartridges the engagement ceased and will be renewed to-day.

The casualties were more severe than is usually the case in this country, some twenty men being reported killed on the Government side; the losses on the other side are not known.

It is illustrative of Moorish methods that the doctors did not accompany the troops, but were sent out from here some hours after firing had ceased.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[1269]

No. 21.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Tangier, January 6, 1907.

WITH reference to your Circular despatch of the 9th April, 1906, I have the honour to transmit an interesting sketch by Mr. G. R. Warner, Third Secretary to His Majesty's Legation, of the exploit of the famous brigand and ex-Governor Raisuli.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Memorandum by Mr. Warner respecting Raisuli.

AT this moment, when Raisuli is holding the centre of the Tangier stage, some account of his antecedents and career may not be altogether devoid of interest.

It is commonly thought that Raisuli is a common bandit, who, by exceptional audacity and unscrupulousness, has attained his great position. This is, however, not the case.

Raisuli, or, to give him his full and proper name, Moulai Ahmed Erraisouni, is a direct descendant of Moulai Idris, the first Sultan of Morocco, and patron saint of the country. He belongs to the branch of Sidi Younes, uncle of Moulai Abd-es-Selam, the Sultan of the Jebala, or mountaineers. Sidi Younes was descended from El Hassan Sibd, son of Ali Wuld Abi Taleb and of Lalla Fatma Zora, the daughter of the Prophet.

A son of Sidi Younes married Lalla Raisoun, the daughter of Moulai Abd-es-Selam, and his descendants took the name of Wuld Raisoun, Wuld Berrisoun, Raisounieen, Raisoulieen.

One of Raisuli's ancestors, the Shereef Sidi Mohammed-ben-Ali Erraisouni, distinguished himself at the battle of Wad-el-M'Khazen in 1578 against the Portuguese, and as a reward for his exploits the Sultan of the Saadian Dynasty, Moulai Ahmed-el-Mansour Eddahbi, granted to him and his heirs the ground on which the battle was fought, on the left bank of the river in the territory of the Khlot tribe. His descendants own at the present day two large "azibs" (property granted by the Sultan free of taxes) near the scene of the battle.

The Raisouni Shereefs live chiefly in the little town of Tazerout in Beni Arous, where their principal sanctuary is. Raisuli's branch of the family lived in the Beni Said, but his father Sidi Mohammed settled at Zinat, where he married, Raisuli being, however, born at Tetuan, it is stated, in 1863, about 1,000 years after the fall of the Idris Dynasty.

From his earliest days, Raisuli would appear to have been of an adventurous disposition. As a boy, he consorted with bad characters, and accompanied them on their lawless excursions in search of plunder. As he grew up he soon became notorious for cattle lifting and highway robbery, making frequent raids from the Akba-el-Hamra on the Fez road upon the surrounding country. It became impossible to tolerate these proceedings any longer, and in February 1896 Raisuli was induced by a Sheikh of the Beni M'sowar to go to Tangier to confer with the Basha Wuld Ben Abdessadok, who pretended that he wished to appoint him Sheikh of Gharbia. Raisuli fell into the trap and was seized during a banquet at the Casbah. He was imprisoned at Mogador, from which place he effected his escape after five years, but as he was unable to walk he was at once caught and a second time incarcerated. After two more years Raisuli's relations at Tetuan succeeded in obtaining his liberation through Sid Mohammed Torres with whom they had considerable influence.

Raisuli then spent some time at Briesh, near Arzila, where his sister was living, having married the Shereef.

Raisuli's first important exploit was, in May 1903, to attack Arzila, but he was bought off by the townspeople, and on the approach of Makhzen troops was forced to take refuge in the sanctuary of Moulai Abd-es-Selam in Beni Arous. On quiet being restored, he went to Zinat and made the village his head-quarters. In June the Makhzen troops attacked and burnt the place, and it was then that Mr. Harris, who had ridden out as a spectator, was captured by some Anjera men who handed him

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

over to Raisuli. During the negotiations for Mr. Harris' release, Raisuli was forced to hand him over to Duas, an Anjera Kaid, who treated him well, and was largely instrumental in getting him easy terms. Mr. Harris was released in exchange for a number of Raisuli's friends in confinement at Laraiche and Tangier. It is interesting to note that at this time there were said to be some 4,000 tribesmen round Raisuli at Zinat.

For a year after this Raisuli kept quiet, but his success no doubt encouraged his ambitions, and on the night of the 19th May, 1904, he seized Mr. Perdiccaris and his son-in-law and carried them off to the Beni Arous country. The motive for this act was, as Raisuli asserted, the atrocities committed the preceding year by the Government troops, near Zinat, on defenceless women and children.

The negotiations for the captives' release were protracted, and eventually Raisuli got in exchange the release of prisoners belonging to the Beni Ider and other tribes; the dismissal of the Basha, Wuld-ben-Abdessadok, who had seized him at Tangier; the withdrawal of the Government troops; the payment of 70,000 dollars; the governorship of the districts of Briesh and Zinat; the imprisonment of the Sheikh of the Beni M'sowar, who had connived at his capture, and of a Sheikh of Wad Ras and his nephew; and permission for the Beni Arous to return to the plains and go to the market.

Raisuli demanded that the 70,000 dollars should be the proceeds of the sale of property belonging to the Basha Abdessadok and his cousin, the Governor of Fez, but the money was paid by the Makhzen. He also asked for the Bashalik of the whole of the Fahs, with the Gharbia, Bedawa, and Aamar districts; but this was not accorded to him till March 1905, as a result of negotiations with Kaïd Abdelkrim-el-Shirgi, Commander of the Mehalla. El Ayashi Zellul, a friend of Raisuli, received at the same time the Governorship of the Beni M'sowar and Beni Arous tribes, which had also been hitherto under the Basha of Tangier.

The Makhzen were at this time powerless to resist Raisuli by open means, but in September they sent two sums of 5,000 dollars to the Anjera and Wad Ras in order to bribe some one to kill him. Raisuli, however, heard of this in good time, and threatened to capture a European if he were molested. He further boasted that what would happen if any attempt were made upon him would "cause the capture of Messrs. Perdiccaris and Varley to sink into insignificance and put the Makhzen to shame."

In April 1905 the Makhzen sent Kaïd-el-Shirgi to Zinat to try and induce Raisuli to repay the 70,000 dollars' ransom for Messrs. Perdiccaris and Varley. Raisuli offered to gradually raise the money if the Makhzen would improve his position. Raisuli showed considerable suspicion of the Makhzen's real intentions towards him—a suspicion which was justified by events, for at the end of the month the Kaïd made an attempt to make him withdraw from the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier. Raisuli replied by sending additional guards, and nothing further was done.

In September a Fahsi favourable to Anjera made a plot against Raisuli, which was discovered and the man imprisoned, whereupon the Anjera retaliated by sacking some Fahs villages. The hostility of the two tribes to one another now became so serious that the German Chargé d'Affaires thought it necessary to intervene. He sent for Raisuli's brother and discussed the situation with him, but arrived reluctantly at the conclusion that they would have to be allowed to fight it out.

Raisuli now made an attack on the Wad Ras, with somewhat unfortunate results, for the tribesmen withdrew from their villages and ambushed him. He had to retire with some loss.

Kaïd Duas' section of the Anjera came to terms with Raisuli, who agreed not to tax Anjera products brought to market.

At the end of the month Raisuli was at war with the Beni M'sowar, who had captured his mother. The Shereef of Wazzan, Mulai Ali, who often serves as a mediator, tried in vain to arrange matters; but as in the course of time it became apparent that the Mehalla was practically at Raisuli's disposal, the Beni M'sowar and their allies, the Wad Ras, released the woman and sued for peace. Raisuli burnt the village where she had been kidnapped.

At the beginning of 1906 an event occurred which still further increased the ill-feeling between Raisuli's partisans and the Anjera.

In accordance with custom, on the occasion of one of the principal feasts, the Anjera sent a deputation to Fez with presents for the Sultan. These men on their return were made prisoners at a village some 20 miles from Tangier, and taken off in chains. Nothing more was heard of them, and the report was that they were murdered

by Raisuli's orders. A meeting was held in Anjera at Duas' house to consider the matter. After supper Deylan, another Anjera Chief and a friend of Raisuli, was murdered by Duas' orders, ostensibly on the ground that he was concerned in the murder of the Anjera emissaries, but really because his presence in Anjera was a constant danger to the tribe in the event of an attack by Raisuli.

The Anjera were now eager to make an attack in force on Raisuli, but did not dare to, as they could not obtain a promise from the Court that the Mehalla would remain neutral.

In April the Shott incident occurred, which gave rise to further disturbances later. The Shotts were an Anjera family of Spanish origin, who had settled at Tangier. Raisuli had an old fued against the family. Ben Mansour, who has subsequently gained notoriety as Raisuli's Khalifa at Tangier, and his subordinates succeeded in shooting two members of the family after a good deal of indiscriminate firing in the town, but a third brother escaped.

It is commonly stated that the Charbonnier murder at the end of May was perpetrated by Anjera men to get Raisuli into difficulties with the Makhsen.

In June Duas was murdered by a member of Deylan's family.

On the 16th August there was a great fracas in the town, caused by one of the Shotts firing at one of the men who had killed his kinsmen.

Raisuli had only to congratulate himself on the result of the day, as the new Pasha Kaïd Kaddor-el-Ghazi supported his men against the Anjera, and drove the latter from the town.

There have occurred since this date a number of incidents, such as the interference with the Spanish Electric Light Company and with the transfer of land in the Tangier district, and the unwarrantable arrest of foreign subjects, all of which are attributed to the direct orders of Raisuli. It would, however, seem that Raisuli's Khalifa, Ben Mansour, is to some extent responsible for the occurrence, and the fact that he was recently summoned to Zinat, and placed under arrest there, indicates that, in Raisuli's opinion, he has gone too far, Raisuli being hardly anxious to afford further pretexts for the landing of foreign troops.

Raisuli is credited with having amassed large sums of money, and it is probable that he would now be willing to withdraw from the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier if he were given another Governorship and some guarantee of immunity.

Raisuli exploits his position as a Shereef to rouse the fanaticism of the mountain tribes for his own ends, but he also poses in the character of a national hero, who holds the Christians in check. His yoke has, however, been a heavy one, and on his disappearance from the scene it is clear that the Fahs will be glad to settle down quietly in allegiance to a Governor enjoying the confidence of the Makhsen.

[1390] No. 22.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 12, 1907.

A REQUEST submitted by Raisuli to the Sultan for pardon has been set up ton Fez to-day.

I have been informed of this very confidentially.

[1536] No. 23.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Madrid, January* 10, 1907.

IT has often been remarked that the general public in Spain takes little interest in what goes on in Morocco. When the greater nations of Europe are compelled from time to time to intervene in the affairs of that region the Spanish Government claim a share in the measures taken, but the country at large looks on apathetically, and the Spanish press is generally opposed to active interference.

To combat the tendency and spread a better knowledge of the question, a congress of Spaniards interested in Africa met yesterday at the Madrid Athenæum. No less than 60 Chambers of Commerce and other Associations of a similar kind are represented in it, and 10 Senators and 32 Deputies are on the list of Delegates.

In his opening address, Señor Saavedra, a Senator and Member of the Spanish Academy and President of the Congress, gave a sketch of the progress made by other nations in reclaiming Africa from a state of barbarism. He insisted on Spain taking her part in this common work of humanity. In Morocco her task was plainly indicated by her geographical position. She already had a foothold on many points along the coast. These should be the starting-places for a further and pacific advance, by which the influence and commercial activity of Spain would gradually be diffused over the interior.

The Congress was divided into sections, which are to study and report on the following subjects:—

1. Industries. How can the manufactures of Spain be made to compete with those of other countries?
2. Navigation development of Spanish shipping.
3. Finance. Maintenance of Spanish currency in Morocco.
4. Language. Encouragement of the Spanish language and literature.
5. Emigration.
6. Consulates.
7. Commerce.
8. Spanish possessions in West Africa, Fernando Po, Rio Muni, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[1510] No. 24.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Paris, January 12, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, extracted from the "Temps" of yesterday, an article relative to the dispatch to Morocco of two German officers, Herr Wolf and Herr von Tschudy.*

The first intimation of their mission was, the article says, contained in the "Dortmund Gazette" of the 8th January, which announced that the former had been engaged by the Sultan as Cavalry Instructor, and the latter as Head Engineer Officer. It was later stated by several papers that Herr Wolf was not Cavalry Instructor, but associated with Herr von Tschudy in the latter's capacity. A certain amount of mystery attaches to the nature and object of the mission of these officers, and the "Temps" indulges in speculation as to how far the Krupp firm and the Imperial Government may be concerned in the matter. If Herr von Tschudy is simply the commercial representative of the Krupp firm, no objection could be made to his presence. If, on the contrary, these officers are to create a new public service, of which they would be the real masters, France could not admit the too obvious subterfuge of asserting that this could be no case for adjudication, such as was provided for by Article 107 of the Algeciras Act. It is, however, possible that the officers may have gone to Fez as instructors of portions of the Moorish army; but even then the consent or approbation of the other European Powers ought, in the opinion of the writer, to have been sought.

The article concludes by repeating its demands for explanations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[1393] No. 25.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 13, 1907.*

MOORISH interpretations of the Algeciras Act.

In concert with my French and Spanish colleagues, I have agreed, subject to your approval, to join in addressing to the Makhzen an identic note to the effect that their observations have been communicated to us, but that the Convention came into

* Not printed

force on the 1st January in its entirety, the ratifications having been deposited at Madrid, and that a discussion of other questions decided at Algeciras might be entered upon if these points were to be considered.

We shall also endeavour to get a reply in a similar sense returned by some of the other Representatives.

See my despatches Nos. 2 and 10 of the 2nd and 8th instant.

[1308] No. 26.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Villiers.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 14, 1907.*

AFTER having ratified the Algeciras Act, the Moorish Government have now expressed to the Signatory Powers a desire to interpret in their own way certain of its Articles, and have requested that these interpretations may receive recognition.

Austria and Germany may, it is thought, be willing to comply with this request, but we and the French and Spanish Governments have determined to refuse to discuss in any way the proposals put forward by the Moorish Government.

His Majesty's Government trust that they may count on the co-operation of the Portuguese Government in this matter.

You should acquaint the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs with the above, and express the hope that he will instruct the Portuguese Representative in Morocco to act in concert with the Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Spain.

[1308] No. 27.

Sir Edward Grey to the Marquis de Villalobar.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 16, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, and to express to you my thanks for having thus acquainted me with the views of the Spanish Government as regards the question of sending a reply to the Sultan's Delegate at Tangier on the subject of the Moorish interpretations of the Algeciras Act.

His Majesty's Government have placed themselves in communication with the French Government as to the terms of the instructions to be given to their Minister at Tangier, and will endeavour to obtain the adhesion of the Portuguese Government to any line of action decided upon by the French and Spanish Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[1308] No. 28.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 16, 1907.*

WITH reference to previous communications, I transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a communication made on the 11th instant by the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires on the subject of the Moorish interpretations of the Algeciras Act.*

As your Excellency will observe, the Spanish Government consider that the note addressed by the Sultan's Delegate at Tangier to the Spanish Minister at that place should now receive a reply. They say that they will communicate this reply to the Makhzen themselves only in the event of all the Powers agreeing to refuse to discuss the proposed amendments; failing this unanimity, they suggest that each Government should notify its answer separately, those Powers which intend to refuse agreeing between themselves first as to the terms of their communications.

You should inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the above, and say that His Majesty's Government agree with the Spanish view, and hold that unless all the

* No. 17.

Powers are unanimous it would be advisable that each Government should reply separately, but that the answer of those Powers which decide to refuse might be made simultaneously and in identic terms.

In the event of the French Government sharing this opinion, His Majesty's Government will instruct their Minister at Tangier to act in concert with his French and Spanish colleagues, and will endeavour to obtain the co-operation of the Portuguese Government, leaving it to the French Government to obtain that of the Russian Government.

A copy of the reply which I have returned to the Marquis de Villalobar is also inclosed.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[1828] No. 29.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Paris, January 16, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a further article published in the "Temps" of to-day's date in regard to the reported engagement of Major von Tschudy and Captain Wolff in the service of the Sultan of Morocco.†

This article is written in reply to a statement which appeared in the "North German Gazette" on the 14th instant explaining that Major von Tschudy had entered the service of the Sultan as a technical expert whose advice might eventually be taken in regard to contracts and plans for public works, and that neither he nor Captain Wolff had been engaged as instructors for the Sultan's army.

Whilst welcoming the announcement that these officers have not been engaged as instructors, the article in the "Temps" expresses regret that there should be an ambiguity in the "North German Gazette" in regard to the functions of Major von Tschudy.

The appointment of Major von Tschudy would seem to be contrary to the intentions of the Algeciras Conference, which were that in the introduction of the necessary measures the Sultan should deal with Europe as a whole and not with the individual Powers. It had also been proposed by Germany herself that the choice of technical experts in connection with public works should rest with the Corps Diplomatique.

The article again adverts to the reported connection of Major von Tschudy with the firm of Krupp, and expresses the opinion that that officer will have great difficulty in reconciling his obligations towards the firm with his duties towards Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[1948] No. 30.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January 17, 1907.*

PROPOSED withdrawal of French and Spanish men-of-war.

The French Minister has suggested to his Government that only one vessel of each Power should now remain at Tangier, the rest being withdrawn; and that a note should be addressed to the Makhzen explaining that as some effort has been made towards the restoration of order the war-ships are to leave.

M. Regnault has further proposed to his Government to inform the Makhzen that the moment has now come for the organization of the police force, and that, pending the establishment of the bank, France and Spain will make the necessary advance to defray the costs.

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* No. 27.

† Not printed.

[2048] No. 31.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, January 18, 1907.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs concurs in the views expressed in your despatch No. 24 of the 16th instant in regard to the Moorish interpretation of the Algeciras Act.

He will instruct the French Minister at Tangier accordingly, and will endeavour to secure Russian co-operation.

[2096] No. 32.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Tangier, January 7, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that operations against Raisuli were continued yesterday, the mountain guns being in the charge of the Algerian artillerymen. The first two shots blew Raisuli's house to pieces, and, there being no reply, the troops rushed in and found the place deserted. The rest of the day was given up to looting. It was afterwards ascertained that Raisuli had left with all his men, women, and children at 3 in the morning. His destination is now believed to be the house of Zellal, in the Beni M'souar country, about 3 hours from Zinat, a strong position. This result is most unsatisfactory and does little to improve matters, for, if the Government do not continue to act against him, Raisuli will still be a source of danger, and will no doubt again gain adherents.

The Moorish Government's explanation of their failure is the following: Sid Mohammed-ben-Baghdadi, the Commander, declared he was in possession of information to the effect that Raisuli had with him 600 men. The Anjera tribe, which had protested their allegiance to the Makhzen, failed to put in an appearance, and were holding aloof to see which way victory turned. Ben Baghdadi under these circumstances could not risk detaching any men from the main column to cut off Raisuli's retreat, more especially as none of the Government troops have any knowledge of the use of a rifle or any military enthusiasm. The Minister of War states that on the 5th 80,000 rounds of ammunition were fired by the Government troops and 8,000 rounds from the Maxims, besides over 100 shells. Raisuli and his men are credited with having fired 58,000 rounds, this figure being arrived at by the number of empty boxes found and by the statement of the carpenter who opened the boxes. Raisuli's men used smokeless powder. The Government troops were not supplied with smokeless powder, and only possessed very inferior rifles. The Government claim to have killed twenty-one of Raisuli's men.

The intention of the Government is to warn the tribe in which Raisuli has taken refuge, and all other neighbouring tribes, that if they harbour this outlaw or facilitate his escape they will be "eaten up," and the authorities appear to be satisfied that this plan will succeed, a sanguine feeling not fully shared by foreigners here, and not justified by past experience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[2098] No. 33.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Tangier, January 10, 1907.*

THE failure of the Sultan's Mahalla to capture or even inflict a decisive defeat on the brigand and ex-Governor Raisuli requires some explanation. That an army of some 3,000 men, infantry and cavalry, in the neighbourhood of Tangier, assisted by a certain number of field guns and maxims and supported by an army said to be of similar force not 50 miles from here, should have been unable to accomplish their supposed aim, would, to those unacquainted with the circumstances of the case, appear inexplicable.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

I should be unwilling to be the advocate of the Makhzen in explaining this distressing failure, but I may point out some of the reasons for the somewhat unfortunate termination of the first act of the campaign, reasons which, I fear, may have their influence upon future acts of this same campaign.

Raisuli, in spite of being feared and hated as a man, is, as a Shereef, highly honoured and respected. His boldness and daring have led the ignorant to believe that he has a charmed life. He has not acquired his position without acts of brutality and the bleeding of the poor, but this system has no doubt gained him as many admirers as enemies. In the neighbourhood the local tribesmen have witnessed with surprise and admiration the fact that he has ridden roughshod, not only over the Makhzen, but over the foreigners and their representatives, who, failing the practical support of the Makhzen, were powerless to cope with his arrogant and domineering actions.

That the Makhzen since 1904 made no apparent effort to check his growing influence and authority very naturally encouraged the tribesmen to believe that he was supported by the central authority. Small blame to the ignorant countrymen that the arrival of the Sultan's Mahalla with proclamations of Raisuli's dismissal did not at first inspire much confidence. There were many who thought that it had come to drive the foreigners with their ideas of reform into the sea, others that it had come as a sop to satisfy them with their constant complaints, but few would believe that it had really come to rid the country of the all-powerful brigand. There still remains a certain amount of prestige attaching to an army sent by the Sultan, but, blind as the people are, they can hardly believe that this untrained and ill-supplied rabble, composed principally of men who find no more profitable occupation, can be a serious instrument. But this rabble still inspires terror amongst the tribes, as its weapons of warfare are fire and looting.

The advent of the Mahalla placed the neighbouring tribes in a difficult position. There was no enthusiasm on the part of any of them for the Sultan's cause. The Fahs, over which Raisuli was Governor, certainly did submit, and added their contingents. The Anghera, who for some time have had a lasting feud with Raisuli, held aloof, though promising their support, choosing no doubt the wiser part of not committing themselves to the Government side until they were more certain of the Government obtaining some success. Neither did the tribes in the rear of Raisuli's stronghold, for reasons no doubt diplomatic, commit themselves. Si Guebbas, then feeling that he was sufficiently assured of all absence of serious opposition on the part of the tribes, resolved to take action. The attack on Raisuli's stronghold was merely an attempt to drive him out in order that the troops might benefit by the expected loot. Raisuli's plan, without doubt, was, at the very least, to attempt to secure a foreigner of some position and then make terms with the Makhzen. This failed, and after a most creditable resistance, he withdrew to a tribe, a part of which is friendly to him, in full confidence that his sanctity would secure him immunity from their treachery.

This factor and the idea that his delivery into the hands of the Makhzen would be pleasing to the Christians, will be most valuable to him.

The Makhzen troops, which were unable to capture him in an easy country, will be powerless to act now that he has taken refuge in the mountains. All we can hope for is that this tyrant may be handed to the Government authorities by some of the tribes, in order to save the destruction of their property, and that we may perhaps by this means be relieved of his presence here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[2099] No. 34.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 19.)

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Tangier, January* 13, 1907.

THE French Minister told me to-day that he has received a reply to the note he addressed to Sid Mohammed Torres calling upon the Makhzen to settle the claims arising out of irregular acts committed by Raisuli, on the occasion of the latter's dismissal from the position of Governor of the Fahs.

Sid Torres' note was couched in such insolent terms that he had been at first disposed to return it to that official, but having referred the matter to his Government

he was directed to reply. I understand from M. Regnault that, with regard to the Charbonnier affair, the note stated that justice would be done, but as regards other acts of Raisuli it was asserted that in no country would similar claims be put forward or considered for one moment. The note likewise contained ill-disguised insinuations that the French had always been the great obstacle to reform in Morocco. M. Regnault was unable to explain what encouragement the Moorish authorities had received to induce them to assume such an unfriendly attitude as they had recently done. The reply which he was sending to the Court would be couched in rather strong terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[2187] No. 35.

Sir F. Villiers to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 19.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, January* 19, 1907.

YOUR telegram No. 1 of the 14th instant.

I have just received the reply of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He states that on the 13th October, 1906, the Chargé d'Affaires in London was instructed to inform you that the Portuguese Government were prepared to give a similar answer to that returned by His Majesty's Government to the Sultan of Morocco with regard to his interpretation of certain Articles of the Algeciras Act.

The Portuguese Minister at Tangier will now be instructed that, subject to efforts incumbent upon him as doyen to secure unanimity amongst his colleagues, he is to support his British, French, and Spanish colleagues.

[2186] No. 36.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 19.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January* 19, 1907.

THE French and Spanish Governments have, I learn, come to the following agreement respecting Morocco:—

To keep the landing forces together in places whence they can easily, in case of need, be reshipped to Tangier, from which they will withdraw their ships with the exception of one each. To announce these steps to the Powers in a Circular, and to notify to them at the same time that France and Spain intend, without awaiting the constitution of the Morocco State Bank, to themselves provide by means of an advance the necessary funds and at once set on foot the new police organization. At Casablanca the suburbs will be policed by Spain and the town by France, whist at Tangier the contrary plan will be adopted.

[2385] No. 37.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 21.)

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Tangier, January* 14, 1907.

MR. WHITE, in his despatch No. 215 of the 24th December, 1906, reported the reasons expressed by the different Representatives for declining the offer of the Moorish Government of a house in the official Moorish quarter of the town in which the meetings of the Diplomatic Body and the Moorish Delegates should be held for the purpose of discussing the Regulations to be elaborated arising out of the Algeciras Act.

At the meeting of the Diplomatic Body and the Moorish Delegates of the 27th November, 1906, the question was raised again, but the doyen, speaking for the foreign Ministers, made it clear that the offer of the Makhzen could not be accepted.

In the meantime Sid Mohammed Torres addressed a note, dated the 26th

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

November, 1906, but received later, to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body calling his attention to the offer of the Makhzen of a house for the meetings.

At a meeting of the Diplomatic Corps held on the 27th November, 1906, it was decided that the plenary meetings should be held at the house of the doyen, and the Committee meetings at the house offered by the Moorish Government.

On the 18th December, 1906, however, the Moorish Commissioner returned to the charge, and in his note stated the decision of the Diplomatic Body "constitue une atteinte au prestige de Sa Majesté Chérifienne en même temps qu'un préjudice à ses droits, et que cet incident a vivement peiné Sa Majesté."

A polite reply was, with the unanimous consent of the foreign Representatives, sent to Sid Torres on the 22nd December, 1906. But this did not satisfy the Moorish Government, who replied on the 27th December, 1906, stating the decision indicated a want of consideration for His Majesty, who had a right to put forward the demand that the house offered by His Majesty should be utilized, and consequently invited all the Representatives to refer the matter to their respective Governments, which they have now decided to do.

The general view of my colleagues, in which I join, is that it would be extremely undesirable for us to withdraw from a position which we have unanimously taken up, that in all recent cases where the Diplomatic Body and Moorish officials have met for the purpose of drawing up Regulations, &c., the meetings have taken place in the house of the doyen, that were we to meet in the house allotted by the Moorish Government it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a foreign Representative to accept the Presidency, and that the Presidency could not be left to a Moorish Delegate as they are all ignorant of any European language, and further, the fact must not be lost sight of that Sid Torres is not the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and that consequently the procedure of other countries cannot be taken as a precedent.

I have the honour to submit herewith copies of the notes exchanged between the Diplomatic Corps and the Moorish Government on this subject, together with minutes on these notes by some of the Ministers, and I also inclose copies of the *procès-verbaux* of the meetings of the 24th and 27th November, 1906, for convenience of reference,* and I venture to request your instructions as to the attitude I should assume in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[2549] No. 38.

Sir G. Bonham to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 6.)
Berne, January 20, 1907.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 8th instant, relative to the appointment of a Swiss officer as Inspector-General of International Police in Morocco, in accordance with the terms of the Algeciras Conference, I have the honour to report that the question has been engaging the attention of the Federal Government, but that there are one or two preliminary matters which will have to be decided before the appointment can be submitted to the Sultan, among them being the choice of the Power under whose protection the Inspector-General is to be placed. This difficulty arises from the fact that Switzerland has no Representative at Tangier.

I further gather that before entering on his duties a formal Agreement would have to be drawn up between the newly-appointed Inspector-General and the Maghzen defining clearly his position. Among other eventualities which have to be considered is that of his death, and the guarantees which in that event should be stipulated for his family. While perfectly willing to appoint a competent officer for the Sultan's approval, I gather that the Swiss Government do not wish to incur any responsibility for his actions.

In speaking to me on the subject at a dinner given last night by the Federal Council to the Diplomatic Body, President Müller said it was important that such

* Not printed.

questions should be settled previously; that the note embodying the views of the Federal Government had been that day delivered to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires; and that, by the time an answer had been received from Madrid, he would be in a position to submit the name of an officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

[2566] No. 39.

Memorandum communicated by Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, January 22, 1907.

THE Swiss Government has apprised His Catholic Majesty's Government to be ready for the designation of an Inspector for the Morocco police; but wishes before to make clear several items *re* the jurisdiction of the above said official, also on use of uniform and adjutant, as well as on the conditions of contract.

The Spanish Government has answered, that as soon as they shall receive the complete text of the "Note" it will be communicated to the Powers; but that meanwhile, as the official instructors are unable to begin their duties without the Inspector, the designation of the latter is a matter of the highest immediate interest. Therefore, His Catholic Majesty's Government has begged the Swiss Government to appoint the aforesaid Inspector, regardless of the delay of knowing the demanded conditions.

His Catholic Majesty's Government will be most grateful to His Britannic Majesty's Government if they would insist on their part with the Swiss Government in the sense demanded for the immediate appointment of the Inspector.

Spanish Embassy, London, January 21, 1907.

[2532] No. 40.

Identic Note communicated separately by French and Spanish Embassies, January 22, 1907.

EN arrêtant les résolutions qu'ils ont notifiées aux Puissances et au Représentant du Gouvernement Chérifien, le 5 Décembre dernier, les Gouvernements Espagnol et Français voulaient, à la fois, appeler la plus sérieuse attention du Maghzen sur la nécessité d'une action énergique à Tanger, assurer la sécurité de la ville, et rendre ainsi possible l'organisation de la police prévue par l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Les deux Puissances qui avaient pris cette initiative préalablement notifiée aux États Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras ont la satisfaction de constater que le Gouvernement Marocain, ouvrant enfin les yeux à la gravité des circonstances, s'est décidé à porter remède à l'état de choses qu'il avait laissé s'établir. Grâce à l'effort déployé au cours de ces dernières semaines, la situation de la ville et de sa banlieue cesse de causer les inquiétudes qui nécessitaient la présence des bâtiments de guerre envoyés dans les eaux de Tanger.

L'Espagne et la France, ayant atteint le but immédiat qu'elles se proposaient par leur manifestation commune, peuvent envisager dès maintenant le rappel très prochain de leurs escadres. Mais, fidèles à la pensée qui a dicté leur intervention, les deux Gouvernements estiment que la mission dont ils ont assumé la charge ne serait accomplie qu'en partie s'ils n'obtenaient pas la prompte organisation de la police, de laquelle dépend le maintien de la sécurité, rétablie grâce à leur attitude. Il s'agit, en somme, d'assurer l'exécution de l'une des stipulations principales de l'Acte d'Algésiras, aujourd'hui ratifié par toutes les Puissances qui ont pris part à la Conférence.

L'Espagne et la France, investies à cet effet d'un mandat particulier, sont désireuses de faire tout ce qui est dans leur pouvoir et dans leur droit pour prêter leur assistance au Maghzen. Afin de prévenir tout retard, elles ont arrêté la liste des instructeurs qu'elles soumettent à l'agrément du Gouvernement Chérifien. Elles se proposent, en outre, de faire au Maghzen l'avance des fonds nécessaires pour la mise en pratique de l'Article XXXV de l'Acte Général, jusqu'au jour où la Banque d'État, définitivement constituée, sera en mesure de les rembourser et d'en effectuer le versement régulier. Le Gouvernement Helvétique devant, de son côté, faire connaître le nom de l'Inspecteur-Général qu'il lui appartenait de désigner, le Comité chargé de

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

préparer les Règlements sur la Police conformément à l'Article IV de l'Acte Général peut se réunir dans le plus bref délai.

Les Gouvernements Espagnol et Français ont donc pris toutes les dispositions qui leur incombaient pour répondre aux obligations qu'ils ont assumées dans l'intérêt commun des étrangers au Maroc et de l'Empire Chérifien. Ils comptent que le Gouvernement du Sultan voudra bien remplir à son tour les engagements qu'il a contractés, vis-à-vis des Puissances, donner au Ministre de la Guerre ou son Délégué des instructions en vue de la prompte réunion du Comité des Règlements, choisir les officiers Marocains affectés au commandement des nouveaux corps et faciliter le recrutement et le fonctionnement normal de la police.

L'Espagne et la France, qui verraient avec regret le retour d'incidents nécessitant leur intervention, considèrent que les intérêts du Gouvernement Chérifien, comme ceux des étrangers résidant au Maroc, ne seront suffisamment garantis que si la police dont les bases ont été posées par l'Acte d'Algésiras est organisée sans retard avec l'entier concours du Gouvernement du Sultan.

Le 22 Janvier, 1907.

[2637] No. 41.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 22, 1907.

THE French and Spanish squadrons sail to-morrow, leaving one ship of each nationality.

I understand that you will receive to-morrow a copy of the note which my French and Spanish colleagues presented this afternoon to the Moorish Commissioner explaining the reasons for this action.

[2650] No. 42.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Tangier, January* 16, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 149 of the 22nd December, Dr. Rosen, the German Minister, spoke to me to-day with regard to an article which appeared in the "Temps" of the 12th instant, on the subject of the expected arrival in Morocco of certain German officers. He said that the statements that had appeared regarding these officers created a wrong impression. When he was at the Court the Sultan had asked him whether the German Government could not supply a successor to M. Rottenburg, an engineer who had been for some years in the Moorish Government service, and who had recently died, and Captain von Tschudi had been selected. Dr. Rosen had at the time suggested that the Sultan should also name another officer to assist Captain von Tschudi and take his place during his absences, to which His Majesty had agreed. But although he considered that the Sultan had a perfect right to select any foreign officer for any purpose he wished, there had never been any question of a German cavalry instructor being selected to fill the place vacant by the death of Major Ogilvy.

Neither of these gentlemen had the remotest connection with Krupp.

Dr. Rosen said that the appointment of the gentlemen in question in no way whatever encroached on the letter or the spirit of the Act of Algeciras.

The whole story of these officers going to Fez as military instructors had been started by an unimportant journal, the "Gazette de Dortmund," and he was very sorry that credence had evidently, judging from the article in the "Temps," been given to it at the Quai d'Orsay. It would have been a simple matter for M. Regnault to have asked him for explanations on the subject, and it would then have been impossible for M. Regnault to say, as the article states, that he had no information on the subject.

I thanked Dr. Rosen for his communication, but merely observed that, as he knew that the subject was engaging considerable attention, it would perhaps have been easier for him to have volunteered a statement to M. Regnault than for the latter to have sought explanations from him.

Dr. Rosen later on spoke to M. Regnault in the same sense, and does not seem to have been any more definitive as to what the duties of these gentlemen would be when they reached Fez. M. Regnault tells me that he did not conceal from Dr. Rosen his dissatisfaction at this proceeding.

The officers in question arrived in Tangier yesterday,

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[2187] No. 43.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Villiers.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 23, 1907.

MOORISH interpretations of the Algeciras Act.

I have received your telegram No. 1 of the 19th instant, and request that you will thank the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs for his friendly reply. You should, at the same time, inform his Excellency that His Majesty's Government hope that the instructions given to the Portuguese Minister at Tangier will leave him in no doubt that he is to lend unreserved support to his British, French, and Spanish colleagues in the event of the failure of his efforts to secure unanimity.

[2797] No. 44.

Sir F. Villiers to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, January* 24, 1907.

MOROCCO. I have had interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs, and, as directed in your telegram No. 2 of yesterday, have expressed thanks for his friendly reply respecting concerted action at Tangier. Senhor Magalhães informed me that the instructions given to the Count de Martens Ferrão had made it clear that if he is unable to secure unanimity among the foreign Representatives he is without fail to support his British, French, and Spanish colleagues.

[2531] No. 45.

*Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.**

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, January* 26, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 22nd instant, notifying the withdrawal of the French and Spanish fleets from Tangier, and also the steps in contemplation for the immediate organization of the police force, and I beg to thank your Excellency for this information.

His Majesty's Government are much gratified to find themselves in complete accord with the views and suggestions put forward by the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[3045] No. 46.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Tangier, January* 16, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed by Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod that Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has stated to him that the Moorish arrangements regarding the State Bank were now complete, and that Hadj Dris Benjelum, the representative of the Moorish group of subscribers, would leave Fez about to-day.

* Also to the Marquis of Villalobar, *mutatis mutandis*.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

The Moorish group of subscribers has been formed into a financial Company. Half the capital has been subscribed by present and former Makhzen officials, and half by non-official Moors of Fez, Rabat, and Tetuan, and the proportion of capital required by French law—namely, a quarter—was ready.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[3046] No. 47.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 16.)
Sir,

Tangier, January 17, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 140 of the 28th November, I regret that I have been unable to obtain any declaration from Dr. Rosen regarding the German claim for all the port works at Tangier as well as at Laraiche, but in connection with the drainage works which are contemplated by the Conseil Sanitaire, it is very likely that Dr. Rosen will be compelled to make a statement to his colleagues if the German Government still maintain this position.

M. Regnault informs me that he believes that Dr. Rosen, when at Fez, concluded an arrangement for further harbour works at Tangier beyond those already in course of construction, to the extent of 30,000*l.*

This was, in M. Regnault's opinion, contrary to the letter and spirit of the Act of Algeciras, and the matter would no doubt be submitted for the consideration of the Powers.

This and the appointment of the German officers at Fez, which formed the subject of my despatch No. 14 of yesterday, were, M. Regnault believed, the only concessions obtained by Dr. Rosen on his recent mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[3048] No. 48.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 18.)
Sir,

Tangier, January 19, 1907.

SINCE my report of last week, regarding the action of the Government troops and authorities directed towards the capture or extinction of Raisuli, there is but little to record. The authorities have thought it wiser not to imprison any of his allies for the present, and he himself has sought refuge in a spot which they dare not attack. I am informed that they are cautiously collecting the names of his most desperate confederates, with a view to laying hands upon them later on, and some more villages were burned which were said to harbour them, and in which there was no danger of the Government troops meeting with a reverse. I am likewise informed from Fez that 1,000*l.* has been offered by the Government for the capture of Raisuli, dead or alive, but this mediocre sum is not likely to present sufficient encouragement in view of the risk involved.

In the meantime, the reply is still awaited from Fez to Raisuli's request for pardon, and my informants are not aware of the conditions under which this pardon was asked for.

But little has been done to re-establish security, so little that the Makhzen have twice within the last two weeks requested the diplomatic Representatives to order their nationals to refrain from going beyond the military outposts in the immediate vicinity of the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[3142] No. 49.

Sir F. Villiers to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 3.)
Sir,

Lisbon, January 20, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith translation of a Memorandum received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs in reply to the communication which I made to him, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your telegram No. 1 of the 14th instant, requesting that instructions should be sent to the Portuguese Minister at Tangier to act in concert with his British, French, and Spanish colleagues.

I reported yesterday by telegraph the substance of the Memorandum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Memorandum from Portuguese Government.

(Translation.)

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs has received the communication made to him by Sir Francis Villiers, expressing, on behalf of the British Government, the hope that the Portuguese Government would associate themselves, through their Minister at Tangier, with the attitude which the Governments of His Britannic Majesty, of His Catholic Majesty, and of the French Republic have by common agreement determined to adopt in declining to admit the claim of the Moorish Government to place their own interpretation on certain Articles of the Algeciras Act.

The Portuguese Government would recall the fact that as early as the 13th October last the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires in London was instructed by telegraph to acquaint His Britannic Majesty's Government that the Spanish Government had communicated the observations made by the Sultan of Morocco to the Italian Minister at Fez on the occasion of the signature of the General Act, and had expressed a desire to know the opinion of the Portuguese Government with regard to these observations. In the same telegram the Chargé d'Affaires was instructed to inform the British Government that the Portuguese Government, having no special interest in the matter, were prepared to give a reply in harmony with that returned by Great Britain, should such a course be agreeable to His Britannic Majesty's Government.

In the eventuality now contemplated the Portuguese Government will adhere to the determination already expressed in their spontaneous offer of the 13th October, and will send instructions in that sense to their Minister at Tangier. At the same time, in view of his special and delicate duties as doyen of the Diplomatic Body, they feel bound to remind him that before any final decision, in which he will associate himself with the Ministers of England, Spain, and France, he should always endeavour to bring the remainder of his colleagues into accord.

January 19, 1907.

[3138] No. 50.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 22.)
Sir,

Madrid, January 23, 1907.

I HAD some conversation yesterday with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the action of Spain in Morocco.

Señor Perez Caballero, during his few weeks of office, has shown much activity in dealing with the questions which have arisen. In the face of the public indifference, not to use a stronger word, he has heartily co-operated with France in the joint demonstration of force at Tangier, and in preparing for the operation of the new police force in the ports of Morocco, under French and Spanish inspection. His Excellency thinks the results, so far, have been good. The joint forces at Tangier, both naval and military, will now be considerably reduced, on the understanding that the inauguration of the new police force shall be proceeded with immediately. His Excellency is engaged in making the necessary arrangements. In concert with M. Jules Cambon, who returned to Madrid yesterday, he will endeavour to lay down

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

the lines on which the police Regulations and the Budget to cover the expenses shall be framed. He contemplates a meeting in Madrid of the Swiss Inspector-General and of the chief French and Spanish Inspectors, for the purpose of making an advance draft of the Regulations, so that a definite scheme may soon be ready for submission to the Moroccan Minister for War, or his delegate, whose signature must be appended to the new Regulations, together with those of the foreign Inspector-General and the French and Spanish Inspectors. The Swiss Government have been putting some questions by telegraph which it is not easy to answer offhand, but which Señor Perez Caballero thinks should be settled when the foreign officers of police are all assembled at Tangier, viz., as to the uniform to be worn, the jurisdiction to which the Inspector-General would be liable, the extent to which he would enjoy diplomatic privileges, &c. His Excellency's only regret is that another Ministerial crisis is imminent, and that it will probably fall to some one else to superintend the actual installation of the new Spanish police institutions in Morocco, in which he feels personally so deeply interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[3013] No. 51.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 30.)
Sir,

Berlin, January 24, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 24 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" publishes an official announcement under yesterday's date, stating that the French and Spanish Ambassadors here have informed the German Foreign Office that the French and Spanish men-of-war are soon to be withdrawn from Moroccan waters, in view of the action which is being taken by the Moroccan Government themselves, in improving the condition of affairs in Tangier and its neighbourhood. The Ambassadors' communications, which are drawn up in identic terms, go on to point out the necessity of speedily establishing the police force provided for in the Act of Algeciras, and enumerate the steps taken with this object in view by France and Spain, in consequence of the mandate given to these Powers by the Moroccan Government and by Switzerland. The notes further express the hope that the Government of the Sultan will on their part give every assistance to the establishment of the police force, and conclude by observing that, in the opinion of France and Spain, the interests of the Shereefian Government, as well as those of the foreigners residing in Morocco, can only be satisfactorily guaranteed by the organization without further delay, and with the ready assistance of the Sultan's Government of the police force as laid down by the Algeciras Act.

Herr von Tschirschky received these communications with the assurance that the German Government would do all in their power to hasten on the establishment of the police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[3128] No. 52.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 48.)
Sir,

Paris, January 27, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 2 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a communication which I have received from the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs stating that the French Government concur in the views expressed by His Majesty's Government relative to the reply to be returned to the Moorish Government in regard to their interpretation of the Algeciras Act.

The French Government have requested the Government of Russia to co-operate with the Governments of France, Great Britain, and Spain, and have instructed their Ambassador at Rome to address a similar request to the Italian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Note communicated by M. Pichon to Sir F. Bertie.

PAR une note en date du 17 de ce mois, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne a bien voulu donner connaissance au Département d'une communication adressée par le Chargé d'Affaires d'Espagne à Londres à Sir Edward Grey et relative aux observations du Maghzen touchant l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Le Gouvernement de la République partage entièrement la manière de voir du Gouvernement Britannique telle qu'elle est exprimée dans cette note, et il est d'avis que les Puissances qui ont décidé de refuser la discussion des observations du Gouvernement Chérifien le fassent savoir à ce dernier séparément, mais simultanément et en termes identiques.

Ainsi que le suggérait Sir Edward Grey, le Gouvernement Français a demandé au Gouvernement Russe de joindre son action à celle de la France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de l'Espagne ; il a en outre chargé l'Ambassadeur de la République à Rome de faire une démarche dans le même sens auprès du Gouvernement Italien.

Paris, le 26 Janvier, 1907.

[3268] No. 53.

Sir G. Bonham to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 9.)
Sir,

Berne, January 27, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 3 of this day's date, I have the honour to report that the Federal Government came yesterday to an unexpected decision relative to the nomination of an officer for the Sultan's approval as Inspector-General of Police in Morocco.

Without waiting for a reply to their note specifying certain conditions, their choice has fallen on Colonel Armin Müller, Instructor of Artillery of the first class, a cousin of the President of the Confederation.

The Spanish Chargé d'Affaires informs me that the nomination is not subject to any conditions, but that in the note apprising him of Colonel Müller's nomination, the Swiss Government express the hope that the four points to which they attach importance will be accepted.

These points are, I understand, as follows :—

1. The question as to the Power under whose jurisdiction or protection the Inspector-General will be placed, which is not to be one of the Powers principally interested in Morocco.
2. The appointment of an "officier d'ordonnance" as Aide-de-camp or Adjutant.
3. The right to wear the Swiss uniform.
4. Questions relative to indemnity in case of death, also certain payments or salaries to be made by the Maghzen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

[3293] No. 54.

Marquis de Villalobar to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 29.)

(Translation.)
Sir,

London, January 28, 1907.

IN thanking you for your note of the 25th instant, relative to the communication made to the Swiss Government in regard to the appointment of the inspector of the Moorish police, I have the honour to inform you, by direction of the Government of the King, my august Sovereign, that the Swiss Federal Government have agreed to propose for that post Colonel of Artillery M. Armin Müller. I hasten to acquaint you with the above for the information of the Government of His Britannic Majesty and for any necessary action.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) VILLALOBAR.

[3628] No. 55.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 30, 1907.

COUNT METTERNICH spoke to me to-day on the subject of the meetings of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier.

The Moorish Government were anxious that the plenary sittings should take place in a house which they had offered. The German Minister thought this course might be adopted. It would be pleasing to the Sultan, and might make him more pliable in other matters. But the opinion of the majority of the diplomatists had been that the meetings should be held at the house of the doyen. Count Metternich asked what was my view.

I said I had received a report from Mr. Lowther on the subject, and, speaking from memory, I thought he himself was of opinion on two grounds that the meetings should only take place in the house of the doyen. To do otherwise would be to diminish the prestige of the European Representatives in the eyes of the Moors. There would also be a difficulty as to who should preside at sittings held in a place belonging to the Moorish Government. It would never do for a Moor to preside.

Count Metternich thought this second point could be adjusted. On the first point he said the German Minister did not attach the same importance to it, and he did not think it would have any undesirable results.

I said I had regarded the matter as being settled by the majority of the Representatives. I had, on reading Mr. Lowther's account, agreed with the view he had taken. I could not, speaking from memory, be quite sure whether I had sent him definite instructions on the subject, or whether I had simply acquiesced in the view he had taken, which seemed to me the right one.

Count Metternich was subsequently informed verbally that Mr. Lowther had been instructed to support the majority of his colleagues who were opposed to accepting the Sultan's offer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[3572] No. 56.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Paris, January* 30, 1907.

I INFORMED the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day that the Portuguese Government, acting on your advice, had given instructions to their Minister at Tangier that failing unanimity amongst the foreign Representatives in regard to the answer to be made to the Moorish Government in the question of their interpretation of the Algeciras Act he was to act in concert with his French, Spanish, and British colleagues.

M. Pichon said that he was glad to receive this information, and he told me that he had obtained, as you had suggested he should, the co-operation of the Russian Government in this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[3660] No. 57.

Mr G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 1, 1907.

CID TORRES, in a note received to-day, requests me to inform His Majesty's Government that, owing to the military operations now being conducted, the Moorish Government finds itself in financial embarrassments.

A loan of 10,000,000 fr. is required immediately, and, as the Morocco State Bank has not yet started operations, the Makhzen trusts that this sum will be advanced by the banks having shares in State Bank in proportion to their respective shares. This advance will, he states, be repaid out of the large loan which the Makhzen hopes will eventually be made to them by the State Bank.

[3751] No. 58.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 2, 1907.

THE note respecting the loan desired by the Moorish Government, referred to in my telegram No. 10 of yesterday, was also sent to all the foreign Representatives here.

The French Minister is of opinion that the Moorish Government should apply to the French Consortium, as the State Bank does not exist *de facto*. He says the Moorish Government evidently do not understand the situation.

The Consortium have under their consideration a recent application from the Moorish Government for a loan of 2,000,000 fr.

I am sending by bag the note above referred to.

[3881] No. 59.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Tangier, January* 22, 1907.

M. REGNAULT told me to-day that he yesterday had a long conversation with Dr. Rosen regarding the appointment of Major Tschudy. This formed the subject of my despatch No. 14 of the 16th instant, and the French Minister returned to the charge, basing himself on an article which appeared on the 14th instant in the "Gazette de l'Allemagne du Nord," containing a statement to the effect that it was quite possible that the officer in question might be utilized as a technical adviser in connection with public works to be carried out in this country, or in connection with the public services of the Empire.

Dr. Rosen, while admitting that the journal in question was to a certain extent an official one, repudiated any connection with the authorship of the article in question. Pressed very firmly to declare the exact object of Major Tschudy's presence at Fez, Dr. Rosen was, it seems, even less explicit than he had been when he himself broached the question to M. Regnault and also to myself, as reported in my despatch above mentioned.

Driven into a corner by the French Minister's request to be allowed to see Major Tschudy's contract with the Sultan, Dr. Rosen declined to make any reply whatever, but reasserted his previous statement that he was not at present the representative of Krupp.

M. Regnault then reminded Dr. Rosen that the Commission of which they formed part was now engaged in elaborating a "Règlement" for tenders for public works. The preparation of the plans, "cahiers des charges," &c., would be made at Fez. Would it be in accordance with the spirit and even the letter of the Act of Algeciras that Major Tschudy should be allowed to exercise his influence in these matters? M. Regnault thought not, and apparently made it clear to Dr. Rosen that he considered that the demand for the "open door" for which Germany had made such a stand at Algeciras had been completely forgotten in this matter.

Dr. Rosen, it seems, stated that he understood that the French Government were putting forward a candidate for the post of the engineer to be established under Article 66 of the Algeciras Act, and hinted that by such an appointment France would gain an undue influence. To this M. Regnault naturally replied that every Power was entitled to put forward its candidate, the selection depending on the Diplomatic Corps here, and Dr. Rosen somewhat plaintively rejoined that, in all cases where the Diplomatic Corps was concerned, he would find himself in a minority. M. Regnault did not wish to argue this point, but remarked that he felt himself bound by the Act of Algeciras, and he presumed that Dr. Rosen was in a similar position.

I record at some length this conversation merely as an indication of a desire on the part of the German Envoy to "get round" the Act of Algeciras, and as a contradiction of the oft-repeated protestations and declarations of Prince Bülow regarding the *bonâ fides* of the German Government in carrying out its stipulations.

At the moment of writing this despatch I hear from a good source that the Sultan has directed the Minister of War to send from Tangier 300 soldiers to from

an engineer corps. It is somewhat significant that this order should have been given just at the moment of the expected arrival of Major Tschudy at Fez. I understand that the reply of the Minister of War was that, so far from being able to send men to Fez, he required more men to be sent here to deal with the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[3883] No. 60.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Tangier, January 26, 1907.*

THE operations of the Sultan's army during the past week have been marked by the leisure which usually characterizes all movements undertaken by His Majesty's troops.

As the result of a small expedition sent to relieve the town of Arzila, which was in the hands of Raisuli's men, a number of prisoners, about forty, were sent in to Tangier, but about half this number have since been released. Those detained are said to deserve the punishment they are now receiving, but they are not the regular adherents of Raisuli.

After many days' delay, following on the attack on Zinat, the Sultan's troops moved camp in the direction where Raisuli was said to be taking refuge to a place called Ramel-ben-Kalli, in the Beni M'sowar country, and the neighbouring tribes were called upon to send contingents. An attack was made on the 23rd on some villages believed to contain adherents of Raisuli, and they were destroyed with the loss of 7 killed and about 20 wounded of the Government troops, but a later attack on a strongly fortified village, said to harbour Zellal, the protector of Raisuli in that tribe, was not successful, and the troops withdrew at nightfall. The contingents from the tribes behaved in a half-hearted manner and were useless. The operations have now been suspended until after the Feast of Aid-el-Kebir. I understand that the reward offered for the capture of Raisuli has been raised to 2,000*l.*

That part of the army which has been camped at Alcazar, some fifty miles from here, under the orders of Sidi-el-Merani, seems to have met with some success, without any operations worthy of the name, in inducing the rebellious tribes to submit to the Makhzen. Quiet prevails in that district, and the tribes have been invited to pay the taxes which they have omitted to pay for several years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[4086] No. 61.

Swiss Federal Council to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.—(Communicated by the Spanish Ambassador, February 5, 1907.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Berne, le 18 Janvier, 1907.*

PAR note du 31 Décembre, 1906, vous nous avez prié, de la part du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique, agissant au nom de tous les Gouvernements représentés à la Conférence d'Algésiras, de désigner, conformément à l'Article 7 de l'Acte Général de cette Conférence, entré en vigueur le 31 Décembre, 1906, un officier supérieur de l'armée Suisse qui, en qualité d'Inspecteur-Général, aurait à surveiller le fonctionnement de la police dans les ports Marocains.

Vous nous avez demandé, en outre, d'accepter, pour le Tribunal Fédéral, la juridiction que lui confèrent les Articles 45 et 46 de l'Acte précité.

Nous avons l'honneur de vous informer que le Conseil Fédéral, appréciant à sa juste valeur le témoignage de confiance que les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras ont bien voulu lui donner, est disposé à accepter la mission de désigner un officier supérieur de l'armée Suisse, qui, après avoir été agréé par Sa Majesté Chérifienne, aurait à exercer les fonctions d'Inspecteur-Général de la Police.

Avant, toutefois, de prendre une décision à ce sujet, nous désirerions être éclairé sur les points suivants :—

A quelle juridiction sera soumis l'Inspecteur-Général de Police ?

Pourra-t-il se placer sous la protection d'une Puissance amie n'ayant pas d'intérêts politiques au Maroc et dont le Tribunal Consulaire exercerait, à son égard la juridiction de la même manière que vis-à-vis des ressortissants de la nation protectrice ?

Si des contestations s'élevaient entre le Makhzen et l'Inspecteur au sujet des fonctions de ce dernier et de l'interprétation du contrat visé à l'Article 11, le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger se chargera-t-il de les trancher ?

L'Inspecteur sera-t-il autorisé à porter son uniforme d'officier Suisse en l'adaptant, s'il le faut, aux conditions du climat du Maroc ?

L'Inspecteur aura besoin d'un Adjutant qui remplisse, en même temps, auprès de lui les fonctions de Secrétaire. Nous sommes d'avis que cet Adjutant, dont le traitement serait à la charge du Makhzen, devrait être de nationalité Suisse.

Il nous paraît indispensable que le contrat à passer entre l'Inspecteur et le Makhzen renferme des stipulations formelles assurant à l'Inspecteur le remboursement de ses frais de déplacement, y compris le transport de son mobilier, le paiement de son traitement par la Banque d'État du Maroc, le droit à la pension, une indemnité en cas de maladie, d'accident, ou de mort.

Nous devons, enfin, nous réserver la faculté de renoncer en tout temps au mandat que les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras ont bien voulu nous confier.

La question concernant le Tribunal Fédéral (Articles 45 et 46 de l'Acte d'Algésiras) sera l'objet de communications ultérieures.

En vous priant de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique, nous saisissons, &c.

Au nom du Conseil Fédéral Suisse :
Le Président de la Confédération,
(Signé) MULLER.

Le Vice-Chancelier de la Confédération,
(Signé) SCHATZMANN.

No. 62.

Swiss Federal Council to Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.—(Communicated by the Spanish Ambassador, February 5, 1907.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Berne, le 25 Janvier, 1907.*

EN nous référant aux différents entretiens que vous avez eus avec le Président de la Confédération, et dans lesquels vous avez relevé le grand intérêt et l'urgence qu'il y a à ce que le Conseil Fédéral propose aussitôt l'Inspecteur-Général de Police au Maroc, sans attendre la réponse des Puissances à sa note du 18 Janvier, nous avons l'honneur de vous informer que nous proposons à l'agrément du Sultan pour les fonctions dont il s'agit M. Armin Muller, Colonel d'Artillerie.

Cette proposition est, toutefois, faite sous les reserves suivantes, et dans la certitude qu'il y sera donné satisfaction :—

L'Inspecteur-Général de Police pourra se placer sous la protection d'une Puissance amie n'ayant pas d'intérêts politiques au Maroc.

L'Inspecteur sera autorisé à revêtir son uniforme d'officier Suisse en l'adaptant, s'il le faut, aux conditions du climat du Maroc.

L'Inspecteur aura le droit de s'adjoindre un Adjutant de nationalité Suisse dont le traitement sera à la charge du Makhzen.

Le contrat à passer entre le Makhzen et l'Inspecteur stipulera, en faveur de ce dernier, les garanties formulées dans notre note du 18 de ce mois.

En vous priant de vouloir bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique, nous saisissons, &c.

Au nom du Conseil Fédéral Suisse :
Le Président de la Confédération,
(Signé) MULLER.

Le Chancelier de la Confédération,
(Signé) RINGIER.

[4354] No. 63.

Memorandum communicated by the French Minister, February 8, 1907.

LES réunions à Tanger du Corps Diplomatique et des Délégués Marocains chargés d'étudier les Règlements prévus par l'Acte d'Algésiras devaient, suivant l'usage, se tenir dans la maison du Doyen, aujourd'hui le Ministre de Portugal. En avisant M. Malmusi, alors Doyen, de l'arrivée des Délégués Chérifiens, Torrès, le 30 Septembre, 1906, n'avait fait aucune allusion au lieu des séances, et c'est seulement au mois de Novembre qu'il demanda que les réunions se tinssent à la Kasbah dans une maison préparée à cet effet. Le 24 Novembre, 1906, le Corps Diplomatique, réuni sans la présence des Délégués Marocains, décidait de maintenir les réunions chez son Doyen : le Ministre d'Allemagne se rangeait à l'avis de la majorité, et le Ministre de Portugal informait, le 25 Novembre, Torrès de cette décision, en le convoquant à la première assemblée fixée au 27 Novembre.

Les Représentants Chérifiens n'en maintinrent pas moins leurs propositions, et ils demandèrent officiellement au Corps Diplomatique d'accepter l'hospitalité du Sultan. Seul le Ministre d'Autriche-Hongrie vota en faveur de cette proposition, tout en affirmant que la présidence continuerait à être exercée par le Doyen seul à l'exclusion des Délégués Marocains. En dépit de cette nouvelle décision, les Délégués Chérifiens renouvelèrent leur invitation le 27 Novembre. Sur l'initiative des Représentants Belge et Américain, on adopta une mesure transactionnelle d'après laquelle les séances plénières continueraient à être tenues au Décanat et les réunions de Comité auraient lieu à la Kasbah.

Torrès, cependant, renouvela son invitation en termes pressants le 18 Décembre, 1906, en affirmant que la décision du Corps Diplomatique portait atteinte au prestige du Sultan et préjudice à ses droits. Le 22 Décembre, nouveau refus du Corps Diplomatique notifié par le Ministre de Portugal ; le 27 Décembre, nouvelle lettre de Torrès, maintenant toujours, et en termes moins courtois, son invitation dont il priait les Représentants des Puissances de saisir leurs Gouvernements.

L'obstination des Délégués Chérifiens, Torrès et Mokri, donne à cette question de forme un caractère assez fâcheux, et ils cherchent évidemment à transformer les réunions du Corps Diplomatique en une nouvelle Conférence, où ils présenteront les réserves du Sultan à l'Acte d'Algésiras. Si on cède sur le local, les Marocains insisteront pour obtenir la présidence comme revenant au Représentant du Sultan, qui donnerait l'hospitalité aux Puissances étrangères. Une des conséquences immédiates serait le départ en congé—peut-être le déplacement—du Comte de Martens Ferrão, auquel succéderait le Ministre de Belgique, suivi ensuite par le Ministre d'Autriche. Aussi cette affaire de forme en apparence touchant au fond même de la question de l'Acte d'Algésiras, le Ministre de France s'est-il prononcé pour le rejet de la proposition Chérifienne, et le Gouvernement de la République a entièrement approuvé son attitude.

Le Gouvernement Royal est-il du même avis ?

Ambassade de France à Londres,
ce 8 *Février*, 1907.

[4353] No. 64.

Memorandum communicated by M. Geoffray February 8, 1907.)

LE Gouvernement Marocain a demandé, le 1er Février, que les Gouvernements interviennent auprès des groupes souscripteurs de la Banque d'Etat et les décident à ouvrir au Trésor Chérifien une avance de 10,000,000 fr., remboursable sur le prochain emprunt de liquidation.

L'importance de cette avance n'est pas justifiée par les raisons données par le Maghzen, les troupes de Guebbas ne coûtant que 250,000 fr. par mois. D'autre part, si la Banque d'État avançait 10,000,000 fr. au Maghzen, elle épuiserait le crédit que

l'Acte d'Algésiras l'a autorisée à ouvrir au Gouvernement Marocain exclusivement pour les dépenses de la police. Enfin la démarche du Maghzen va à l'encontre du droit de préférence détenu par le Consortium Français, qui ne cessera que pour être repris par la Banque d'État et qui a été confirmé par la récente avance de 2,000,000 fr. Pour ces diverses raisons le Gouvernement Français estime que la demande du Maghzen n'est pas admissible.

Ambassade de France à Londres, le 8 *Février*, 1907.

[4419] No. 65.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 26.)

Sir, *Tangier, January* 31, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 90 of the 29th ultimo and to your reply, I have the honour to transmit a copy of an extract of a Report which I have received from a confidential and reliable source regarding the position of the Bulhaish family, better known as the Valientes.

It is only so far of interest as showing that these brigands have no following of any importance and are not supported by the mountain tribes of the Anjera. I have caused this information to be conveyed confidentially to the Minister of War, in the hopes that, after Raisuli has been disposed of, some energetic action may be taken against the Valientes.

Pending the capture or final disposal of Raisuli, I am taking no official action whatever regarding the Valientes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Extract of Report respecting the Brigand Ali Bulhaish and Family.

(Translation.)

ALI BULHAISH, father of the Moor Valiente, was a noted contrabandist, who disposed of his booty, consisting chiefly of cattle robbed in connivance with other freebooters at Ceuta. He served as intermediary for the sale of cattle and goats robbed by himself or others to the tribes near Tetuan and Tangier, amongst whom he had trusty friends, who undertook their disposal. This was generally effected at night by evading the guard posts on the Moorish frontier. For this he was nicknamed Valiente. He was assassinated about twenty years since by a Shereef who lived on the frontier at Ceuta. He left three sons. Mohammed Bulhaish, who was then in prison at Tangier, but who subsequently obtained his release through the intervention of certain Legations. He is a great braggart, but of a good heart. He has a great liking for Ceuta, where he has many friends. He is not particularly valiant, although he avenged the death of his father, and he has no influence in the country.

Hamed Bulhaish, the second son of Ali Bulhaish, is the real representative of the family ; he is bloodthirsty and revengeful. He was imprisoned for two months, and was released through the influence of Torres. He has no friends beyond his accomplices. He has no fixed abode, fearing the plots of his enemies. In height he is medium, slender, fair, and of haughty character. He has a following of fourteen adventurers of the village of Benimsala, the birthplace of the family.

There are no relations between the Valientes and Raisuli, or the Pretender, as they consider they would not derive profit from them. A short time since Raisuli wrote them asking them to go to the sanctuary of Moulai Abdselam, in the Beni Aros. They have no prestige in Anjera, where they have many enemies thirsting for vengeance on them. They can only live in Benimsala, where they make money out of mineral, in which they do a contraband trade with the knowledge of the Sultan.

El Arbi Bulhaish is the third Valiente brother. He is 22 years of age, and merely follows his brothers in their undertakings. The three brothers have all the deeply-rooted character of the Arab race ; they show no gratitude, though one were to give them the whole world ; attentions paid to them they attribute to fear and treat them as their right, and, therefore, never show any gratitude.

[4420] No. 66.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 27.)

Sir, *Tangier, February 2, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatches No. 14 of the 16th January and No. 19 of the 22nd January, I have the honour to report that Mr. MacLeod, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, having asked Ben Sliman if he could give him any information as to the position and duties of the German officers who recently arrived at Fez, was informed by him that, as he had not been charged with the arrangement of the matter, he knew nothing about it.

The German officers have been installed in the house formerly occupied by Major Ogilvy, and the impression appears to be very strong in Fez that Major Tschudi is to be Major Ogilvy's successor as cavalry instructor. The Government have been recently buying a number of horses, which were inspected and approved by the Sultan himself, and have also collected some 1,500 men, who, it is anticipated, will be formed into a regiment of cavalry to be trained by the Germans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[4421] No. 67.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 28.)

Sir, *Tangier, February 2, 1907.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit translation of a note I have received from Sid Mohammed Torres expressing the intention of the Makhzen to raise a large loan for military expeditions and other requirements. The Moorish Commissioner adds that as the State Bank has not yet started operations he has been instructed to invite, through the Foreign Ministers here, the banks who have taken shares in the Morocco State Bank to grant a loan of 10,000,000 fr. to be divided amongst the different banks interested. An identic note has been received by the Representatives of all the other Powers here, who have referred the matter to their Governments.

The French Minister, with whom I spoke on the subject, is of opinion that the granting of a loan of 10,000,000 fr. is, under the circumstances, out of the question, and that the Makhzen do not realize the present situation, and that the State Bank is not yet in existence. His view is that the Makhzen can at present only have dealings with the Consortium which has previously granted loans, and that in any case no such sum as 10,000,000 fr. would be considered. The Moorish Government have quite recently applied to the Consortium for a loan of 2,000,000 fr., but Paris financiers do not appear to have been very enthusiastic about obliging them.

I understand, from a confidential source, that the unnamed district to which the Makhzen intend to send an expedition is in the Hous, where Kaïd Aissa-ben-Omar has been, in their opinion, gaining too much influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Sid Torres to Mr. Lowther.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *January 31, 1907 (16 Hejja, 1324).*

YOU are aware that on account of the internal situation of this Empire the Shereefian Government has incurred an enormous expenditure out of proportion to the revenues to insure safety and security in the Shereefian dominions, such as the dispatch of a force to the Tangier district and the mountain provinces in order to restore tranquillity and establish order in the whole. Now the Makhzen is on the point of dispatching another force to another district for the same purpose. Also there is the expenditure on the Riff Mehalla sent against the rebel (Pretender) over

and above the other necessary expenditure on the internal administration of the Shereefian Empire. For this reason the Shereefian Government has the intention to obtain a large loan to meet these expenses. It is known that the State Bank has priority over all other banks if the conditions are equal, and as it has not yet started operations, and time is necessary for it to do so, and the Makhzen is obliged to obtain a loan of about 10,000,000 fr. to meet the expenditure on the above-mentioned matters, it has instructed me (may its happiness continue) to request the respected Ministers at Tangier to inform their exalted Governments by telegraph in order that they may invite the banks taking shares in the State Bank so that they may hasten to deliver the sum requested from them all each in proportion to its share in the State Bank, at the usual rate of interest, on condition that the Shereefian Government will repay it to them when it raises a large loan from the banks or from the State Bank. I therefore trust that your esteemed Excellency will give this request your attention, so that it may be given effect to at the earliest date, as necessity requires it

May you, &c.
(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN EL ARBI TORRES.

[4422] No. 68.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 29.)

Sir, *Tangier, February 3, 1907.*

THERE is but little of an encouraging nature to report regarding the action of the Makhzen authorities during the last week towards the capture of Raisuli.

The Sultan declined to send any reply to his letter asking for pardon, and threw the responsibility upon Guebbas, the Minister of War, here.

Zellal, the Chief of the Beni M'saour tribe, who has been voluntarily or under compulsion fighting with Raisuli, sent in to say he was prepared to surrender himself under proper guarantees. These, however, do not seem to have been forthcoming, for only some of his relatives have appeared here. These were duly pardoned on the sacrifice of a beast at the house of the Minister of War. Pending the surrender of Zellal no movement has been made on the part of the Mehalla.

Numerous complaints have been made as to the robbery and other offences of the Mehalla, and stringent orders to refrain from such action, which will remain a dead letter, have been issued by Guebbas.

Raisuli himself has now sent away his women from his place of refuge into a place of safety for them, in order that his movements may be freer, and he is credited with the intention of capturing a European in the neighbourhood of Tetuan, where the tribes are still wavering between him and the Makhzen.

In the meantime, intrigues are rife at Court against Guebbas, with the idea of obtaining his place for one of the Tazzi group, as much as 50,000*l.* being offered for his place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[4606] No. 69.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 74.)

Sir, *Paris, February 9, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 65 of the 4th instant respecting the loan desired by the Moorish Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note from the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs giving the reasons why the French Government consider that the application of the Maghzen should not be entertained by the Powers. In the opinion of the French Government the Consortium for the loan of 1904 is alone qualified to reply to this application until the State Bank shall have been effectively constituted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Note communicated by M. Pichon to Sir F. Bertie.

PAR une note en date du 2 de ce mois, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne a bien voulu faire connaître au Département que le Gouvernement Britannique ne prendrait aucun parti, en ce qui concerne l'avance de 10,000,000 fr. sollicitée par le Gouvernement Marocain, avant d'être informé des vues du Gouvernement Français sur cette question.

Le Gouvernement de la République apprécie hautement le caractère amical de cette communication.

Il ne lui semble point que la demande du Maghzen puisse être accueillie. Le chiffre de 10,000,000 fr. n'est aucunement justifié, alors que, d'après les évaluations de la Légation de France à Tanger, les dépenses mensuelles de la Mahalla de Guebbas ne dépassent pas 250,000 fr. D'autre part, si les groupes souscripteurs de la Banque d'État acceptaient de faire cette avance et la mettaient ensuite à la charge de la Banque d'État, cet établissement aurait épuisé le crédit que l'Acte d'Algésiras l'autorise à ouvrir au Maghzen, et qui doit, d'ailleurs, être spécialement affecté aux dépenses de la nouvelle police (Article 35), ce crédit ne pouvant excéder les deux tiers du capital initial de la Banque d'État, soit 10,000,000 fr. L'organisation de la police deviendrait donc impossible.

Enfin il est nécessaire de rappeler que les Banques Françaises signataires du contrat d'emprunt de 1904 conservent leur droit de préférence sur toute opération de crédit analogue à celle que le Gouvernement Chérifien sollicite en ce moment. Les pourparlers engagés au mois d'Octobre dernier, et qui ont abouti à l'avance de 2,000,000 fr. consentie au Maghzen par le Consortium Français, ont confirmé ce droit, qui subsistera jusqu'au jour où la Banque d'État, qui l'a acquis, pourra l'exercer.

Le Gouvernement de la République estime donc que la démarche du Magzhen ne saurait être prise en considération par les Puissances, et que, jusqu'à la constitution effective de la Banque d'État, le Consortium de l'emprunt de 1904 a seul qualité pour y répondre.

Paris, le 8 Février, 1907.

[4086] No. 70.

Sir Edward Grey to Señor de Villa Urrutia.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1907.

I HAVE had under my consideration the two notes from the Swiss Government to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne, which your Excellency was good enough to communicate to me on the 4th instant, in regard to the appointment of a Swiss Inspector-General of Police in Morocco.

Before expressing an opinion on the points raised in these communications, His Majesty's Government think it advisable to consult the French Government, and His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has accordingly been instructed to ascertain what are their views in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[4086] No. 71.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 73.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1907.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of two notes from the Swiss Government to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne, which have been communicated to me by the Spanish Ambassador,* in regard to the appointment of a Swiss Inspector-General of Police in Morocco.

The conditions attached by the Swiss Government to their appointment of an

* Nos. 61 and 62.

Inspector-General appear to me to be reasonable, and might, I think, so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, be accepted in their entirety.

The only point likely to give rise to any difficulty is the choice of the foreign Representative at Tangier under whose protection the officer appointed should be placed, with regard to the Capitulations and extraterritorial rights. The Spanish Government, according to a statement made by the Spanish Ambassador at this Court, consider it would be best that the Inspector-General should have an international position, and not be under the protection of any special Legation. This would not, however, I think, be practical, and I am inclined to the view that the United States' Legation might prove the most suitable selection for the purpose.

Before expressing any opinion on this communication, His Majesty's Government are desirous of consulting the French Government, and I should be glad if your Excellency would accordingly ascertain what are their views in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[4354] No. 72.

Memorandum communicated to M. Geoffray, February 12, 1907.

ON the 8th instant the French Minister was good enough to communicate a Memorandum dealing with the repeated efforts made by the Delegates of the Sultan of Morocco to induce the Diplomatic Body at Tangier to hold, in a house placed at their disposal by the Makhzen, the discussions on the various matters which were reserved, under the General Act of the Algeciras Conference, for consideration at Tangier.

His Majesty's Government entirely share the view of the French Government as to the necessity for the meetings continuing to be held at the house of the Dean of Diplomatic Body, and instructions in this sense have been given to His Majesty's Minister.

A statement to this effect was, moreover, made to the German Ambassador, who referred to the matter when calling at this Office on the 1st instant.

Foreign Office, February 12, 1907.

[4354] No. 73.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 19.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1907.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a Memorandum left at this Office on the 8th instant by the French Minister,* dealing with the attempts which have been made by the Sultan's Delegates at Tangier to induce the Diplomatic Body to hold, in a house placed at their disposal by the Makhzen, the meetings for the purpose of concerting the measures prescribed by the Algeciras Act.

M. Geoffray has been informed that His Majesty's Government entirely share the view of the French Government as to the necessity for the meetings continuing to be held in the house of the Dean, and that you have already received instructions in this sense.

Apart from the arguments advanced by M. Geoffray, it seems evident that considerable prejudice would be caused to the authority of the Diplomatic Body if, after so many successive refusals, they were now to accept the offer of the Moorish Delegates.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

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* No. 63.

[4353] No. 74.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Geoffray.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1907.

ON the 8th instant you were good enough to leave with Sir Charles Hardinge a Memorandum setting forth the reasons for which the French Government are opposed to the request of the Makhzen for a loan of 10,000,000 fr. to be provided by the financial groups subscribing to the State Bank.

I have the honour to inform you that the views expressed in this Memorandum meet with the entire concurrence of His Majesty's Government, and that His Majesty's Representative at Tangier has been instructed to give them his support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[4353] No. 75.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 13, 1907.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a Memorandum left here on the 8th instant by the French Minister,* setting forth the reasons for which the French Government are opposed to the recent request of the Makhzen for a loan of 10,000,000 fr.

M. Geoffray has been informed that His Majesty's Government share the view expressed in this Memorandum, and I request you to support your French colleague in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[5023] No. 76.

Sir G. Bonham to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Berne, February* 12, 1907.

AT the President's weekly reception to-day the conversation naturally turned on the affairs of Morocco, and his Excellency remarked that he had learnt with considerable surprise about a week ago that the Spanish Government had not as yet communicated to the Sultan the name of the officer, Colonel Armin Müller, whom, as I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 3, of the 27th ultimo, has been designated Inspector-General of Police in Morocco. The delay was the more remarkable as the Spanish Government had been exercising pressure on the Federal Government to make the nomination. Colonel Müller was, he said, practically ready to start as soon as the Sultan's consent ("agrément") is received.

In reply to my question relative to the Power under whose jurisdiction the new Inspector-General would be placed, President Müller remarked that the question had not been decided, but that the matter had considerably decreased in importance since it now appears that the jurisdiction can only be of a private or personal nature, which he explained to mean a jurisdiction to which he could appeal in case of difficulties with tradesmen or others in Morocco. In questions involving the official status of the Inspector-General he could only refer the matter to the Swiss Government, who would take whatever action it thought best so that it would become, I presume, an international question.

M. Révoil, who has lately been confined to his house, and with whom I have spoken on the subject, held very similar language. Colonel Müller's appointment has been fully discussed in the press, and I have the honour to forward an extract from the "Journal de Genève" giving the substance of an interview.†

From what I have myself seen of him on two or three occasions, the impression is decidedly favourable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

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* No 64.

† Not printed.

[5010] No. 77.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 84.)
Sir, *Paris, February* 14, 1907.

ON receipt of your despatch No. 73 of the 11th instant, relative to the appointment of a Swiss Inspector-General of Police in Morocco, His Majesty's Ambassador, who was confined to the house, desired me to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs and to ascertain the views of the French Government with regard to the acceptance of the conditions attached by the Swiss Government to their appointment of the officer in question, and also as to the choice of the foreign Representative at Tangier under whose protection he should be placed.

I accordingly saw M. Pichon yesterday afternoon and handed to him the inclosed Memorandum. His Excellency, after reading it, told me that his impression was that the question had been further modified since the date of your above-mentioned despatch, and that it was now proposed to place the Inspector-General under the protection of Portugal. He said, however, that he would look the matter up at once, and let me have a definite answer without loss of time.

I have now the honour to inclose copy of a letter which I have received on the subject from the Directeur Politique, stating that M. Pichon, like yourself, is disposed to accept the Swiss conditions.

With regard to the Power under whose jurisdiction the Inspector-General is to be placed, M. Louis states that the French Government learn that the Federal Council have selected Portugal, and that the Spanish Government are satisfied with this choice. The French Government imagine that His Majesty's Government, like themselves, cannot view the choice otherwise than favourably, and M. Cambon has been instructed to approach you in the matter with a view to concerting the action which should be taken to obtain the consent of the Portuguese Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Memorandum communicated to M. Pichon.

THE Spanish Representative in London has communicated to Sir E. Grey copies of two notes, dated the 18th and 25th January, 1907, respectively, addressed by the Swiss Government to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Bergne in regard to the appointment of a Swiss Inspector-General of Police in Morocco.

The conditions attached by the Swiss Government to their appointment of an Inspector-General are considered by Sir E. Grey to be reasonable, and he is of opinion that they might, so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, be accepted in their entirety.

The only point likely to give rise to any difficulty is the choice of the foreign Representative at Tangier, under whose protection the officer appointed should be placed with regard to the Capitulations and extra-territorial rights. The Spanish Government, according to a statement made by the Spanish Ambassador in London, consider that it would be best that the Inspector-General should have an international position, and not be under the protection of any special Legation. Sir E. Grey, however, considers that this would not be a practical arrangement, and he is inclined to the view that the United States' Legation might prove the most suitable selection for the purpose.

Before expressing any opinion on this communication, His Majesty's Government are desirous of consulting the French Government, and Sir F. Bertie has accordingly been instructed to ascertain their views in the matter.

Paris, February 13, 1907.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

M. Louis to Mr. Lister.

Affaires Étrangères, Direction Politique, le 14 Février, 1907.

Cher Collègue,

LE Ministre me charge de vous faire savoir, en réponse à votre Mémorandum d'hier, que, comme Sir E. Grey, il est d'avis d'appuyer les demandes du Gouvernement Suisse relatives à l'Inspecteur-Général de la Police Marocaine.

En ce qui concerne la juridiction sous laquelle l'Inspecteur serait placé, le Conseil Fédéral ne s'est prononcé que ces jours derniers. D'après les renseignements qui nous sont parvenus, il a choisi la juridiction du Portugal. Le Gouvernement Espagnol est satisfait de ce choix, et nous avons pensé que votre Gouvernement n'y pourrait être, comme nous-mêmes, que très favorable. M. Cambon a été en conséquence prié d'en entretenir Sir Edward Grey en vue de l'action qu'il pourrait y avoir lieu d'exercer pour obtenir le consentement du Cabinet de Lisbonne.

Votre dévoué,
(Signé) GEORGES LOUIS.

[4957] No. 78.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Villiers.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1907.

ARTICLE 7 of the Algeciras Act provides for the appointment of a Swiss officer as Inspector-General of the Police.

There being no Swiss Representative at Tangier, the Inspector-General must be placed under the protection of some other Power.

The French and Spanish Governments have proposed that this Power should be Portugal. His Majesty's Government agree, and you should concert with your French and Spanish colleagues and urge the Portuguese Government to consent to this course and to instruct their Minister at Tangier accordingly.

[5214] No. 79.

Sir F. Villiers to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, February* 16, 1907.

[INSPECTOR-GENERAL of Police in Morocco.]

Your telegram No. 3 of the 15th instant. Minister for Foreign Affairs is unable to receive me to-day. I have therefore written to his Excellency, saying that I have been instructed to support the proposal that this officer should be placed under the protection of the Portuguese Minister at Tangier.

I have ascertained that M. Conty, the French Chargé d'Affaires, has already, in accordance with his instructions, proposed to the Portuguese Government that the protection should not extend to questions connected with the official duties of the Inspector-General, but should be of a personal character. M. Conty was instructed to act in concert with the Spanish Representative here, but the latter has not received any instructions. M. Conty was informed that the French Government had asked for the support of His Majesty's Government.

[5220] No. 80.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 17, 1907.

QUESTIONS arising out of the Algeciras Act. Place of meeting of foreign Representatives and Moorish Delegates.

The house has now been placed by the Makhzen at the entire disposal of the Corps Diplomatique, and the Doyen is to preside at meetings.

May I agree to this arrangement? All my colleagues, including the French Minister, are of opinion that we may meet at this house under these conditions.

(See your despatch No. 13 of the 26th January.)

[5351] No. 81.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)
Sir, *Tangier, February* 6, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Hadj Dris Benjelun, the Representative of the Moorish group of the subscribers to the State Bank, arrived here about a week ago. It seems that all the necessary formalities had been complied with and all the papers were in order except that his individual holding did not entitle him to act, and he was requested to obtain the power of some of the other subscribers. It may not be easy to fulfil these requirements, as the subscribers are scattered over Morocco, and it is possible that the Moorish representative may find himself in some difficulty. M. Guiot, the representative of the French bondholders and of the Consortium of the French banks, who was leaving for Paris in connection with the State Bank, and who is, I believe, to be one of the members of the Comité Spécial, invited Hadj Dris Benjelun to accompany him on the 2nd, but on the advice of the German Minister the Moorish representative postponed his departure till the 4th, and went to Paris under the guidance of a M. Jahn, a partner of one of the German banks here.

I have in my possession a full list of the subscribers derived from a Moorish source, and I have reason to believe it is a correct list, but from a confidential source at Fez I hear that at one time the Germans proposed that the German Bank of Haessner should represent the Moors on the Bank. This plan failed, but the Moorish Government was induced to give one quarter of their share in the Bank to one Benzakur, a protégé of the above-named German banker, who lives at Fez and who figures on the list for 550 shares. Haessner is said to be finding the required 11,250*l.*, the basis of the capital of the Bank being 15,000,000 fr. The Moorish Government was persuaded that unless they did this, the Council of the Bank would never listen to their representative, and that they would not get a fair share in the administration. Some members of the Makhzen, I am informed, wished also to give a share of the capital to Braunschweig's agent (a French bank), but the Sultan would not agree.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[5353] No. 82.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Tangier, February* 6, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 14 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have obtained no fresh information regarding the German harbour works at Tangier and Laraiche since my despatch No. 24 of the 29th ultimo, which must have crossed your above-mentioned despatch. The harbour works at Tangier, for which the new contract has been made by the German Company, Philipp Holzmann and Co., the same Company that is building the Bagdad Railway, are spoken of by the German Minister merely as an extension of the mole, in order to protect the basin from the east winds, and the works at Laraiche have not been decided upon. The fact must not be

lost sight of that these works are undertaken under the authority of the Declaration, made by the Moorish Delegates in the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Algeciras, to the effect that, these works having been granted to private Companies, they would not come under the rule that such works must be submitted to adjudication.

Particulars of the Tangier harbour works, as far as it was possible to obtain them here, were transmitted to your Department by me in my despatch No. 209 of the 6th August, 1905, and by Mr. Wyldbore Smith in his despatch No. 21, Commercial, of the 12th October, 1905. Plans of the proposed works accompanied this last-mentioned despatch. The works are progressing satisfactorily, and I am informed that they will be completed within the contract time.

With regard to drainage works at Tangier, a Report has been submitted to the Diplomatic Body to the effect that when the above-mentioned mole is completed the health of the town will be seriously affected, as there will be no outflow for the drainage, and that consequently a passage should now be made through these works before completion. The German engineers have consequently presented a plan for this and for the construction of a road along the beach eastwards from the mole, to be built in connection with the drainage works, and have submitted an estimate for the expenditure of 25,000*l.*

Dr. Rosen a few days ago, at a meeting of the Diplomatic Body, urged the acceptance of this plan, and argued that, as the mole works were German, it could not be undertaken by another firm, as they would thus be authorized to tamper with the German work of the mole. Dr. Rosen hoped that the required funds would be forthcoming under Articles 61 and 66 of the Act of Algeciras. He was opposed by the majority of my colleagues, who maintained that works of this nature must be submitted to adjudication.

It is clear that the drainage scheme might come under Article 61, but the roadway would be entirely under the heading of "Public works for the development of trade" provided for under Article 66, as it would relieve the congestion of the custom-house, but it is unlikely that for a long time to come any available revenue of the dimension required will be forthcoming from the house tax.

The whole matter has been postponed for further discussion, but it is so far interesting as evidence of the desire of the German Minister to obtain for his nationals, on some pretext or other, all the works of Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[5356] No. 83.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Tangier, February* 9, 1907.

SINCE the date of my last despatch, No. 29 of the 3rd instant, on the subject, there have been no indications of activity on the part of the Mahalla in the neighbourhood of Tangier. Zellal, the Chief of the Beni Msaour tribe, made his submission to the Makhzen yesterday, having presumably received guarantees that no harm would befall him.

Raisuli himself, who seems to have been concealed in the Sanctuary of Abd-es-Selam, in Beni Aros, for some days, has dispatched some holy men to Fez to treat directly with His Shereefian Majesty, and it is thought that these negotiations will be successfully carried through.

In the meantime, the authorities are much pressed for money with which to pay the troops. On the most economical estimate it is calculated that the armies here and at Alcazar, under El-Marani, are costing 24,000 Hassani dollars a-day, or about 3,150*l.*, and that the available sums will be exhausted in another week.

The army encamped at Alcazar, under El-Marani, has at length shown some little activity. The El-Serif tribe, which has these last few years developed a spirit of too great independence and too little desire to contribute to the Imperial Exchequer, were warned that they would be attacked if they did not surrender, and the attack took place on the 3rd and 4th instant, ending in the capture of a considerable number of cattle and sheep, and with some loss of life on both sides. The Government troops have,

however, been unable to follow up this victory, as it has been ascertained that the reserves of cartridges are of a different pattern from the rifles in their hands. Reinforcements of 1,000 men are to be sent, and El-Marani does not intend to move until they arrive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[5297] No. 84.

Sir H. Howard to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 29. Confidential.)
Sir, *The Hague, February* 13, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that the Bill for Netherland diplomatic representation in Morocco having been passed by the First Chamber and approved by the Queen, Le Chevalier W. L. F. C. Rappard, First Secretary of Legation at Berlin, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, as also Consul-General, at Tangier, and that he will leave The Hague for his new post on the 17th instant.

I had some conversation yesterday with M. Rappard, when, in speaking of his recent visit to Morocco, he related a similar story to the one alluded to in Mr. Lowther's despatch No. 538, Confidential, of the 8th December, 1906, namely, that in regard to his proposed nomination as Netherland Minister at Tangier a gentleman there had stated that this appointment would please Dr. Rosen, the German Minister, as it would give him another vote. M. Rappard went on to say that he could not understand on what ground this statement was made, but that he could tell me that he had no intention to give his vote to any particular Power, and would always vote in all matters solely according to his own judgment and instructions.

I then mentioned that I knew that in the Netherlands the representation of Dutch interests in Morocco by Germany had been regarded with great disfavour, and that on the occasion of the visit of the Netherland cruisers to Tangier in the autumn of 1905, when the German Representative there had come on board those vessels in uniform, this incident had caused great irritation, and that questions on the subject were asked in the States General (see my despatch No. 199, Confidential, of the 9th December, 1905).

In reply, M. Rappard said that this dislike to the representation of Dutch interests in Morocco by Germany had been one of the principal reasons of his present appointment, and that he might add that he had arranged for a visit to Tangier in the near future of a Netherland man-of-war, so that the Commander of the latter may be received at that port by a Netherland Representative of his own nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

[5576] No. 85.

Sir F. Villiers to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Lisbon, February* 18, 1907.

MOROCCO.

My telegram No. 4 of the 16th instant.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me that Portuguese Government will consent to proposal respecting protection of Swiss Inspector-General, on receiving assurance that none of the Powers interested will raise objection.

F.O. 413/44
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ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

[5830] No. 86.

Memorandum addressed to the Spanish Minister at Berne by the Federal Government.—(Communicated by Señor de Villa-Urrutia, February 20, 1907.)

LE Conseil Fédéral a pris connaissance de la réponse préalable du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique à sa note du 18 Janvier dernier touchant la situation de l'Inspecteur-Général de Police au Maroc et de son officier d'ordonnance.

Tout en confirmant sa dernière note du 25 Janvier, où sont formulées les réserves sous lesquelles il a consenti à proposer, comme Inspecteur de Police, M. le Colonel Armin Müller, le Conseil Fédéral a l'honneur de présenter au Cabinet de Madrid les observations suivantes.

En ce qui concerne la juridiction, le Conseil Fédéral estime qu'il ne convient pas de déclarer l'Inspecteur de Police exterritorial et de le placer sous la juridiction des Tribunaux Suisses. A son avis, la meilleure solution, et celle préconisée dans sa note du 18 Janvier, et qui consiste à placer l'Inspecteur et son officier d'ordonnance sous la juridiction d'une nation n'ayant pas d'intérêts politiques au Maroc pour toutes les contestations qui ne se rapporteraient pas à l'exercice de leurs fonctions et à l'exécution de leur contrat d'engagement.

S'il surgissait des contestations au sujet de leur attributions ou de l'interprétation des clauses du contrat, l'Inspecteur aurait à en référer au Conseil Fédéral, qui, le cas échéant, en saisirait par la voie diplomatique les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Le Conseil Fédéral a pris bonne note de ce que, selon l'avis du Cabinet de Madrid, les deux officiers Suisses pourront porter leur uniforme, avec telles adaptations que les autorités militaires Fédérales autoriseront.

La question de savoir si l'Inspecteur peut s'adjoindre son officier d'ordonnance est résolue affirmativement dans le procès-verbal de la seizième séance de la Conférence d'Algésiras.

Quant aux conditions matérielles (remboursement des frais de voyage, indemnité en cas de décès, &c.), l'Inspecteur tâchera de les régler au mieux dans le contrat prévu à l'Article 11 de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Le paiement du traitement par la Banque d'État du Maroc semble suffisamment garanti par les Articles 6 et 33 de cet Acte.

Rien n'empêche, du reste, d'insérer à cet égard une clause spéciale dans le contrat.

Le Conseil Fédéral prend acte de la déclaration du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique, à savoir, que la faculté du Gouvernement Fédéral de renoncer en tout temps à son mandat ne saurait être mise en doute.

L'Inspecteur de Police et son officier d'ordonnance attendent, pour se mettre en route, que le Sultan du Maroc ait agréé le choix proposé par le Conseil Fédéral conformément à l'Article 7 de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Berne, le 8 Février, 1907.

[5831] No. 87.

Memorandum communicated by Señor de Villa Urrutia, February 20, 1907.

THE Swiss Federal Council has addressed a note to the Spanish Representative in Berne apprising him that the Tribunal of Lausanne accepts the competence bestowed by the Conference of Algeciras, under the following reservations:—

1. That the Swiss Chambers will have to ratify the resolution of the Federal Council; and

2. That the Federal Council will have the right to determine the procedure to be followed by the aforesaid Tribunal, and that they will also regulate by the same procedure all the details referring to the execution of the Commission received.

Spanish Embassy, London, February 20, 1907.

F.O. 413/44
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

[6061] No. 88*.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)

Sir, *Tangier, February 12, 1907.*

IN my despatch No. 24 of the 29th ultimo I stated that the French Company, Compagnie Marocaine, had recently signed contracts for the harbour works at Dar-al-Baida and Saffi. I have now the honour to forward copies of these contracts, which have been furnished to me confidentially.*

I stated that the sum to be expended would be about 3,000,000 fr. It will, however, be somewhat more than this, as 109,905*l.* is to be spent on Dar-al-Baida and 32,100*l.* on Saffi, thus making a total of 142,005*l.* on the two ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

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* Not printed.

[5977] No. 88.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 22, 1907.*

WIRELESS telegraphy.

A structure evidently intended for this purpose has just been erected at Casablanca by a Frenchman named Popp, and some persons have also hurriedly and secretly put up a similar structure here.

The French Minister has not spoken to me nor have I approached him on the subject.

I am informed that it is intended to erect buildings similar to these all down the coast.

[6064] No. 89.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 39.)

Sir, *Tangier, February 16, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that although the Mehalla have not yet recommenced their operations against Raisuli, the general trend of events during the week has been satisfactory to the Makhzen.

Zellal, the Sheikh of the Beni M'souar tribe, having formally submitted, has now been pardoned by the Minister of War, the Beni Ider and Beni Gorfet having come into Tangier and surrendered, this being the condition on which pardon was granted to Zellal.

Among the members of the Beni Ider who made their submission was Ahmed Ben Ali, who was concerned in the capture of Mr. Perdicaris.

These tribes will now support the Makhzen against Raisuli and the few remaining rebellious tribes, and the Mehalla will shortly advance again against the ex-Governor. In the Alcazar district the hill tribes have surrendered to the Commander of the Mehalla there, and the British Consular Agent hopes that the country is pacified.

Kaïd Sir H. MacLean left for Fez on Thursday on the advice of Sid Guebbas to discuss the financial situation with the Sultan. There does not appear to be sufficient money forthcoming to pay and feed the troops for more than three weeks.

Early on the same day Ben Mansour, who since Raisuli's fall has held a minor post under the Makhzen, was shot in front of the Portuguese Legation. The act would, however, appear to be one of private vengeance and not inspired by Raisuli.

From reports received from Fez it appears that the Sultan's *entourage* are very reticent about the negotiations for the pardon of Raisuli, and it is impossible to forecast the decision which His Majesty will come to on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[6072] No. 90.

Sir F. Villiers to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 10.)

Sir, *Lisbon, February 19, 1907.*

AFTER receiving your telegram No. 3 of the 15th instant, I called on M. Conty, the French Chargé d'Affaires, who informed me that he had already acted upon instructions sent to him on the 9th instant and had submitted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the proposal that the Swiss Inspector-General of Police in Morocco should be placed under the protection of the Portuguese Minister at Tangier. I inclose copy of a Confidential Memorandum which M. Conty gave me, showing the nature of his instructions and the action which he took.

I was unable to see Senhor Magalhães on Saturday, as he was engaged in the Cortes, but I wrote him a note saying that I had been directed to support the proposal that the Inspector-General should be accorded Portuguese protection. His Excellency

37
F.O. 413 / 44
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

told me yesterday that the Swiss Government had themselves applied. He had answered that the Portuguese Government agreed to the arrangement on the terms suggested in the communication made by M. Conty, and on condition of an assurance that none of the Powers concerned would raise any objection.

In reply to an inquiry which I addressed to Senhor Magalhães, he informed me that he had received no communication on the matter from the Spanish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Memorandum communicated by French Chargé d'Affaires to Sir F. Villiers.

(Confidentielle.)

LE 9 de ce mois, le Ministre Français des Affaires Étrangères adressait au Chargé d'Affaires de France à Lisbonne le télégramme dont la teneur suit:

" Le Conseil Fédéral Suisse a décidé de placer sous la juridiction Portugaise l'Inspecteur Suisse de la Police Marocaine. Cette juridiction ne viserait ni les difficultés résultant de l'interprétation du contrat de l'Inspecteur avec le Maghzen, ni les conflits relatifs à l'exercice des fonctions officielles du fonctionnaire dont il s'agit. C'est une pure question de Tribunal Consulaire sans portée politique.

" Néanmoins, il est possible que le Portugal hésite à accueillir favorablement la demande du Gouvernement Helvétique.

" La France verrait grand avantage à la réalisation du projet du Gouvernement Suisse; l'Espagne envisage cette solution comme la France. Le refus du Portugal aurait l'inconvénient de retarder la mise en vigueur des stipulations de l'Acte d'Algésiras. Le Gouvernement Français demande au Gouvernement Britannique d'exercer son influence sur le Portugal pour l'amener à accepter la proposition du Gouvernement Helvétique.

" Veuillez, après vous être concerté avec le Chargé d'Affaires d'Espagne à Lisbonne, effectuer une demande auprès du Ministre Portugais des Affaires Étrangères, afin de lui exprimer le désir qu'éprouve le Gouvernement Français de voir le Portugal contribuer à la prompte mise en vigueur de l'Acte d'Algésiras."

Dès la réception de ce télégramme, c'est-à-dire le Dimanche, 10 Février, le Chargé d'Affaires de France à Lisbonne en conférait avec son collègue Espagnol, mais le Marquis de Guell n'avait pas encore reçu d'instructions de son Gouvernement. Le Ministre Portugais des Affaires Étrangères étant alors absent de la capitale, et ne devant y revenir que le Mardi 12 ou le Mercredi 13, le Chargé d'Affaires de France pensa qu'avant le retour de M. Luiz de Magalhães le Gouvernement Espagnol aurait fait parvenir un télégramme à son Représentant. Le Mardi 12 il rappela la question à la Légation d'Espagne. Le Secrétaire, qui suppléait le Marquis de Guell malade, déclara que la Légation n'avait encore rien reçu de Madrid. M. Conty s'efforça vainement d'obtenir de son collègue Espagnol qu'il provoquât discrètement l'envoi d'instructions, en faisant télégraphiquement connaître à Madrid, à titre d'information, la communication de la Légation de France.

Le Ministre Français des Affaires Étrangères ayant prescrit à son Agent d'effectuer, de toute manière, une demande auprès du Gouvernement Portugais, le Chargé d'Affaires de France se rendit le Jeudi 15, à cinq heures du soir, auprès de M. Luiz de Magalhães. Il fit ressortir, en cette circonstance, tout ce que la proposition du Gouvernement Helvétique aurait de flatteur pour le Portugal; il exposa que la juridiction Consulaire sur la personne privée de l'Inspecteur Suisse de la Police Marocaine ne toucherait pas aux attributions officielles de ce fonctionnaire, et ne pourrait s'appliquer à des difficultés relatives à l'interprétation de son contrat avec le Maghzen; il en conclut que l'autorité morale qui résulterait pour le Portugal de cette situation aurait l'avantage de n'entraîner évidemment aucun risque.

M. Luiz de Magalhães répondit en renouvelant les assurances qu'il avait déjà données à la Légation de France, en ce qui concerne l'attitude du Portugal dans l'Affaire Marocaine. Il déclara, cependant, que le Gouvernement Suisse n'avait pas encore saisi officiellement de sa demande le Gouvernement Portugais; il ajouta que la question devrait être examinée par le Conseil des Ministres, auquel les circonstances commanderaient une grande circonspection. Néanmoins, il promit, qu'en remettant

cette proposition au Conseil des Ministres, il manifesterait l'intention d'être agréable à la Suisse, et tiendrait le plus grand compte du désir exprimé par le Gouvernement Français. M. de Magalhães dit, cependant, qu'il serait désirable qu'avant de présenter sa demande officielle au Gouvernement Portugais, la Suisse s'assurât, auprès des Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras, que son choix ne froisse aucune susceptibilité et ne soulève pas d'objection.

Le Chargé d'Affaires de France répliqua qu'évidemment aucune objection ne pourrait s'élever à cet égard.

En rendant compte à son Gouvernement de cet entretien par un télégramme qui est parti de Lisbonne le Jeudi, 14 Février, à dix heures du soir, le Chargé d'Affaires de France laissa clairement entendre qu'il n'en gardait pas une impression absolument satisfaisante, et que l'influence du Gouvernement Britannique, à laquelle faisait allusion le télégramme de M. Pichon, en date du 9 Février, serait certainement salutaire.

Lisbonne, le , 1907.

[5831] No. 91.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 102.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 25, 1907.

I TRANSMIT herewith to your Excellency copy of a communication made at this Office on the 20th instant by the Spanish Ambassador at this Court,* according to which the Swiss Federal Council has informed the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne that the Tribunal at Lausanne accept with certain reservations the duties imposed upon it by the Algeciras Conference.

The first of the two reservations is a question of form, with which His Majesty's Government are not concerned. The second reservation appears to me to be natural and reasonable, and I should be glad if your Excellency would intimate to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that I am disposed to accept it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[6063] No. 92.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1907.

DRAFT Sale of Arms Regulations.

I agree generally with the criticism in your despatch No. 38 of the 14th instant.

Before the drafts of this and other Regulations are submitted to a vote in their final form it may be necessary for us to revise them, and we desire to reserve the right to do so. Otherwise important considerations may escape attention through lack of expert advice on the spot, and the delay which may be involved by reference home is, we consider, preferable to this.

[6609] No. 93.

Sir G. Bonham to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Berne, February* 26, 1907.

AS I have had the honour to report in my telegram No. 4 of to-day's date, Portugal has consented to accept the position of the Power under whose jurisdiction Colonel Armin Müller, the officer nominated by Switzerland to undertake the duties of Inspector-General of Police in Morocco, will be placed.

The President, whose reception I attended to-day, told me that after mature consideration the Federal Council had decided not to ask one of the Great Powers to accept the position, but that he hoped the choice made would be agreeable to all of them.

* No. 87.

38
F.O. 415/44
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

He repeated in very similar terms to those reported in my despatch No. 11 of the 12th instant the restricted conditions under which this jurisdiction would be exercised —namely, in matters connected with any personal difficulties which might arise—in which case Colonel Müller would apply to the Portuguese Legation, and not to matters of higher political importance which would be dealt with by the Federal Government.

His Excellency proceeded to allude to the appointment of Captain Fischer as Staff officer to Colonel Müller, which had been approved by the Federal Government, saying that he had had considerable experience of countries bordering on the Mediterranean, having also travelled in Morocco. According to further particulars published in the newspapers, Captain Fischer is Captain of infantry, of Romanshorn, in the Canton of Thurgovia, but actually domiciled at Marseilles. As agent for the commercial house of Nestlé he has travelled through Spain, Egypt, Algeria, having penetrated as far as Figuig and along the coast of Morocco as far as Mogador. He is described as being a man of 41 years of age, with an extensive knowledge of languages, who has been useful in connection with Swiss commerce.

From what the President said, I gather that the Federal Government are awaiting with some impatience the Sultan's reply to the communication conveying Colonel Müller's nomination, as all the preparations for his departure are complete. There has, it appears, been some question of his starting before the answer reaches Berne, to which proposal, however, the President is personally opposed.

Colonel Müller's present intention is to travel by way of Paris to Madrid, where he wishes to enter into relations with the Spanish Ministers before proceeding to Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

[6767] No. 94.

Swiss Federal Council to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne.—(*Communicated by Señor de Villa Urrutia, March* 1, 1907.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Berne, le* 15 *Février*, 1907.

PAR note en date du 31 Décembre, 1906, vous avez bien voulu nous informer que, le dépôt des ratifications de l'Acte Général de la Conférence d'Algésiras ayant eu lieu le 31 Décembre même à Madrid, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique, agissant au nom de tous les Gouvernements représentés à la dite Conférence, vous chargeait de nous demander d'accepter pour le Tribunal Fédéral de Lausanne les compétences que lui confèrent les Articles 45 et 46 de l'Acte Général ainsi conçu :—

"Article 45. Les actions intentées au Maroc par la Banque seront portées devant le Tribunal Consulaire du défendeur ou devant la juridiction Marocaine, conformément aux règles de compétence établies par les Traités et les Firmans Chérifiens. Les actions intentées au Maroc contre la Banque seront portées devant un Tribunal spécial, composé de trois Magistrats Consulaires et de deux Assesseurs. Le Corps Diplomatique établira, chaque année, la liste des Magistrats, des Assesseurs, et de leurs suppléants. Le Tribunal appliquera à ces causes les règles de droit, de procédure et de compétence édictées en matière commerciale par la législation Française. L'appel des jugements prononcés par ce Tribunal sera porté devant la Cour Fédérale de Lausanne, qui statuera en dernier ressort.

"Article 46. En cas des contestations sur les clauses de la Concession ou de litiges pouvant survenir entre le Gouvernement Marocain et la Banque, le différend sera soumis, sans appel ou recours, à la Cour Fédérale de Lausanne."

Seront également soumises à cette Cour, sans appel ni recours, toutes les contestations qui pourraient s'élever entre les actionnaires et la Banque sur l'exécution des statuts ou à raison des affaires sociales. Aujourd'hui, en réponse à la dite note du 31 Décembre, 1906, nous avons l'honneur de vous faire connaître à l'intention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique et de tous les Gouvernements des autres pays signataires de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras, que nous consentons à ce que soient délégués au Tribunal Fédéral de Lausanne les compétences prévues par les Articles

sus-rappelés, sous réserve : (1) des ratifications conformément à la Constitution Fédérale ; (2) du droit pour le Tribunal Fédéral de déterminer de lui-même, par voie de règlement, la procédure à suivre devant ce Tribunal et de régler aussi par cette voie tous autres détails ayant trait à l'exécution de son mandat.

Veuillez, &c.
(Au nom du Conseil Fédéral Suisse),
Le Président de la Confédération,
(Signé) MULLER.

Le Chancelier de la Confédération,
(Signé) RINGIER.

[6683] No. 95

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 110.)

Sir, *Paris, February* 28, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an article by M. Jules Delafosse on the subject of German activity in Morocco, which appeared in the "Gaulois" yesterday.*

In this article M. Delafosse calls attention to the steps which Germany is taking to obtain a footing in Morocco, first of all through the mission of Major von Tschudi, who has himself issued a statement in regard to the position which he is to occupy in the service of the Sultan, and, secondly, by means of the Concessions in connection with harbour works at Tangier and Larache, and the scheme for promoting the emigration of Germans to Morocco which have been formulated by a Hamburg Company.

M. Delafosse urges the necessity for an active policy in Morocco, as he considers that a display of energy would be the best means of preserving peace. M. Delafosse's views on foreign affairs always command attention, and in this particular instance the article is believed to have been inspired by M. Delcassé.

I also inclose an extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of yesterday's date containing an account of addresses delivered by Captain Azan and M. Messimy at a dinner given by the "Réunion d'Études Algériennes" relative to the military and commercial situation of Algeria in regard to Morocco.* In the course of his address, M. Messimy advocated the employment of the sums hitherto devoted to military works on the Moroccan frontier for the development of economic relations with that country.

The same issue of this paper contains a communication from a correspondent at Benif-Ounif, reporting the alleged presence of two Germans disguised as natives among the troops of El Guebbas, who, it appears, is about to undertake an expedition into the interior of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of the Ambassador),
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[6815] No. 96.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 1, 1907.

STATE Engineer.

Sid Ben Sliman, acting evidently upon advice given him by the German Minister, has addressed a note to the Belgian Minister asking him to put forward a Belgian for this post, and to endeavour to gain the consent of the foreign Representatives to the appointment.

(See my despatch No. 17 of the 17th January.)

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* Not printed.

39
F.O. 413/44
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[6844] No. 97.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 41.)

Sir, *Tangier, February* 21, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 14th ultimo, I regret to report that the Diplomatic Corps was unable to come to a unanimous opinion as to whether to accept or refuse the offer of the Moorish Government of a house in which to hold the meetings of the Diplomatic Body and the Moorish Delegates for the purpose of discussing the Regulations arising out of the Algeciras Act.

The Moorish Delegates then, on a hint received from one of my colleagues, presented a fresh note (copy inclosed), couched in very courteous terms, requesting the Diplomatic Corps to utilize the house placed at their disposal by the Makhzen. This note was brought to the Portuguese Minister by Hadj Mohammed Mokri, who delivered to his Excellency the following message explanatory of the note :—

"Le Makhzen ayant fait préparer une maison à la Casbah à l'effet des travaux à entreprendre pour la régiementation prévue à Algésiras la mettait à l'entière disposition du Corps Diplomatique et de son doyen comme Président des réunions où on traitera les travaux ci-dessus ; en même temps il priait le doyen de vouloir bien accepter ceci et le porter à la connaissance de ses honorables collègues du Corps Diplomatique."

If we were to abandon the position we had taken up it seemed hardly possible to obtain better terms, and the explanation appeared to fully satisfy the large majority of my colleagues. If those who did not approve held to their former views they might incur the odium of obstructing the measures for reform.

Under these circumstances my French colleague was of opinion that we could now accept the offer made by the Makhzen, and suggested this to his Government. It was under these circumstances that I addressed you telegraphically on the 17th instant. Some of my colleagues remain without final instructions, but it is to be hoped that the matter will be disposed of in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Sid Torres to Doyen of Diplomatic Corps.

(Traduction.)

(Après compliments d'usage.)

EN nous référant à la demande que nous avons présentée à l'honorable Corps Diplomatique de vouloir bien consentir à tenir leurs réunions plénières pour l'élaboration des Règlements prévus par l'Acte Général d'Algésiras dans la maison que le Makhzen a fait préparer dans ce but à la Casbah, nous informons votre Excellence que nous ne cessons d'entretenir l'espoir que vous nous accorderez la faveur de vous réunir dans la maison que le Makhzen Chérifien a fait préparer à cet effet, en signe de déférence et de respect envers l'assemblée des honorables Représentants, tout en maintenant la présidence pour les travaux susdits à son Excellence le Doyen. Nous espérons par conséquent que votre Excellence voudra accorder cette faveur et informer le Corps Diplomatique que la dite maison est mise à sa disposition.

Conservez-vous bien et heureux.

(Signé) MOHAMMED-BEN-LARBI TORRES.

Tanger, le 29 Heggia El Haram, 1324
(13 *Février*, 1907).

[6845] No. 98.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 42.)

Sir, *Tangier, February* 22, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a despatch I have received from the Acting Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting the proceedings of a French electrical engineer who is believed to be establishing wireless telegraph stations on the coast.

I understand that a building for the same purpose has just been completed at a spot about a mile outside Tangier, which has every indication of being destined for a similar purpose.

It is not easy to explain how such schemes can be supported by the French Legation, and you will doubtless remember that last year, when I addressed the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Fez, reminding him, in connection with a rumoured German scheme, that, in the establishment of wireless telegraphy, the claim of the Cape Spartel Signal Station should be considered to rank first, M. Saint-René Taillandier expressed his approval of such action.

In 1903 the Moorish Government stated verbally to Sir A. Nicolson that they would require the concurrence of all the foreign Representatives before wireless telegraphy could be established at Cape Spartel ; and when British subjects have applied to this Legation, with the object of establishing such a system, they have always been discouraged.

The Cape Spartel scheme eventually fell through on an objection made by Germany, as recorded in Sir A. Nicolson's No. 18, Commercial, of the 5th November, 1903.

It is clear that a private wireless telegraphic system in the possession of one Power, to the exclusion of others, existing along the coast would be of immense value to that Power, and His Majesty's Government seems always to have implied that the permission of the Sovereign Power would have to be obtained. It is extremely improbable that in this case the Moorish Government has been applied to for such permission.

I would also remind you of the opinion expressed by the Admiralty, in their letter to the Foreign Office of the 2nd April, 1903, to the effect that two stations could not be established here in proximity to each other, as they would become unworkable. The French station would thus be in the position of enjoying a monopoly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Acting Consul Lomas to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 17.)

(Extract.) *Dar-al-Baida, February* 18, 1907.

A FRENCHMAN of the name of Popp, an electrical engineer, and son, I believe, of the large house of that name in Paris, has been here for about a week, and has now left, on Friday, the 15th instant, for Mazagan.

I was informed from several sources, including my German colleague, that this M. Popp is organizing wireless telegraphy stations all down the coast.

On inquiry, to which all Frenchmen here give evasive or untruthful answers, one described him as an "ingénieur agronome," who is going to start ploughing.

I have ascertained that he has bought a piece of land about ¾ mile south of the town, on the seashore, and is building on it a small house, which he himself described to my dragoman, Mr. Broome, as a "pied-à-terre," accounting for its small size and peculiarity of construction by saying that he would not be staying in it much, but it would be inhabited by his assistant, who is travelling with him. The house is square, with a large door and long, low window of a curious shape. At two of the corners, and in the centre of one side, forming a triangle, in the centre of which the house stands, are four deep holes, which M. Popp describes as borings for water. They are at very regular intervals (*vide* diagram*). The house is quite close to the seashore, in a sandy soil, most unfavourable for agriculture.

M. Popp has also had placed at his disposal the store of a Frenchman here, MM. Paquet's agent.

The foundations of the floor of the house are not raised on low arches, as is usual, to avoid damp, but laid on the soil, and a local contractor was asked to erect the building within a month, but refused to do so.

I have asked for a report from Mazagan on the subject, and requested Mr. Spinney to advise Saffi.

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* Not reproduced.

40
F.O. 413/44
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[6970] No. 99.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 107.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, February 24, 1907.*

THE French Ambassador asked me to-day whether I had ever spoken to M. Isvolsky in respect to the affairs of Morocco. I replied that, to the best of my recollection, I had not done so, with the exception of one occasion some time ago when I inquired if Russia had ratified the Algeciras Act. I asked him the reason of putting the question to me.

M. Bompard said that the Germans were creating considerable difficulties in Morocco, and were raising many petty annoyances. I told his Excellency that this did not surprise me. My French colleague at the Algeciras Conference was of the opinion that, once the Conference had terminated, the German Government would not occupy themselves any more with Morocco. I held a different view, and had always been of the opinion that Germany would continue to take an active interest in Morocco. I could not say whether they would do so with the intention of developing German interests in that country, or with a view of inducing the French Government eventually to negotiate an arrangement with her on the lines of the Anglo-French Declaration. But I never believed that Germany would wash her hands of Moroccan affairs when the Algeciras Conference had dispersed. At the same time I did not see how this affected the Russian Government. Had he any reason to complain of their attitude?

M. Bompard replied that he could not say that he could complain of the Russian attitude, as the Russian Government were always ready to meet the wishes of the French Government in the way of according support, but he noticed that any allusions to Moorish affairs were not received with much favour by M. Isvolsky, and that he was somewhat disposed to desire that the Russian Representative should act as a mediator between France and Germany at Tangier instead of giving whole-hearted support to the French Minister. This was not quite what the French Government desired. M. Isvolsky was evidently fearful of taking any step which might offend Germany, and this, in present circumstances in Morocco, was unfortunate. M. Bompard asked me if I could say a word to M. Isvolsky.

I told my French colleague that I might perhaps inquire of M. Isvolsky when it was likely that a Russian Minister would proceed to Tangier, as I understood only a Chargé d'Affaires was there at present, and I might add that perhaps it might be well if a Representative of more weight than a Chargé d'Affaires were at Tangier at a moment when the questions arising from the Algeciras Conference were being discussed by the Diplomatic Body. I said that I should tell M. Isvolsky that I merely made the inquiry and observation in my personal capacity and without instructions, and owing to the interest which I still took in Moorish affairs, having so long resided in that country. I might throw out a hint that the Russian Representative might support the French Representative in faithfully executing the provisions of the Algeciras Act. On my own responsibility I could not go farther than the above private and personal step. M. Bompard said that he would be much obliged if I would speak in that sense to M. Isvolsky. There will, I submit, be no harm in my doing so, though I think that M. Isvolsky is quite indifferent to Moorish affairs, in which Russia has no direct interest. I told M. Bompard that exception could hardly be taken to the solicitude of M. Isvolsky for German susceptibilities, especially in matters where Russia was not directly concerned, and personally I never could blame him for keeping in mind the necessity of his country being on untroubled and friendly relations with her western neighbour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[7110] No. 100.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 45.)

Sir, *Tangier, February 24, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that a meeting of the Diplomatic Corps was held on the 22nd instant to consider what reply should be sent to Hadj Mohammed Torres with regard to the renewed offer

of the Makhzen for the joint meetings of the Diplomatic Body and the Moorish Delegates to be held in a house belonging to the Makhzen, for the purpose of discussing the Regulations arising out of the Algeciras Act.

The Portuguese Minister, the doyen, read a statement explaining the neutral part he had played in the course of the discussions regarding this matter, and expressing the view that this interview with the Moorish Delegates had left upon him the impression of a desire on the part of the Makhzen to conclude a bargain. This statement is inclosed.

The French Minister followed with a proposed declaration on the part of the Diplomatic Body accepting the offer of the Makhzen as now before us, and proposing that it should be accepted in a note. His Excellency concluded by observing that, had he been in the position of the Portuguese Minister, namely, doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, he would have acted in a similar way.

This latter point was the one on which the Portuguese Government laid special stress. A copy of this declaration is also inclosed.

All the foreign Representatives agreed with the French Minister, and it was decided to send to Sid Torres the note of which I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

Declaration of Portuguese Minister.

JE tiens à faire une déclaration à mes honorables collègues. Dans toute cette affaire j'ai tenu, depuis le commencement, par des circonstances auxquelles vous ne laisserez pas de faire justice, à ne pas me prononcer, et j'y tiens encore. Je n'ai jamais eu à émettre d'opinion, et je n'ai fait autre chose que transmettre des décisions prises et en des termes toujours approuvés. Ceci dit, je dois encore à mes collègues quelques renseignements qui ne seront que la constatation de faits. Dans l'entretien que j'ai eu avec Cid-el-Mokhri j'ai eu le soin de traiter le plus impersonnellement possible. Il s'adressait à moi comme doyen, et je ne pouvais pas, je ne devais pas, me prononcer. J'ai eu le soin de le lui dire. Comme doyen, mon devoir était, je l'ai cru—et je le crois maintenant—d'entendre ce qu'il me disait et de tâcher autant que possible de réussir à ce que ses déclarations fussent les plus nettes et aussi le moins susceptibles d'interprétations différentes. Mokhri, comme je le lui avais demandé, est venu avec son interprète, et celui-ci même s'est offert pour traduire la lettre qu'il me consignait, ce que j'ai accepté avec empressement. Aucune autre ne pouvait leur être moins suspecte, et à moi aucune autre n'aurait pu mieux me servir pour en causer. J'ai ici l'original. Pour me guider dans ma manière d'agir j'avais les déclarations de tous mes collègues, et, entre elles, celle de M. le Ministre d'Espagne, qui leur avait dit que Cid-el-Mokhri, dans un entretien qu'ils avaient ensemble, avait voulu soulever la question de la présidence. Mon premier devoir j'ai cru que c'était de tâcher que sur ce point aucun doute ne fût possible. Dans la lettre la phrase: "en laissant la présidence"—je dois l'avouer—ne m'a pas bien impressionnée. C'était les Marocains qui, en nous disant qu'ils nous la laissaient, nous faisaient une espèce de prétendue concessiòn? Qu'ils nous la cédaient? J'ai voulu le tirer au clair, et pour ceci j'ai proposé qu'on introduise dans la note verbale l'adjectif "incontesté." Je n'y ai pas réussi, sous prétexte qu'ils devaient se tenir à ce qui était écrit dans la note qui avait été rédigée par tous les Délégués assemblés, et qu'un seul ne pouvait pas s'en départir. Je me suis cru autorisé à croire qu'ils ne considéraient pas la présidence du Corps Diplomatique comme chose incontestable. Peut-être me suis-je trompé, mais je ne le crois pas. Il m'a semblé donc qu'il ne s'agissait pas simplement d'une concession à leur faire. J'ai eu l'impression—je l'ai presque encore—qu'on voulait donner à tout ceci le caractère d'une espèce de marché à conclure. C'est l'impression que j'ai eue. Si nous allons à la Casbah, comme compensation, en nous laissant la présidence (on nous la cédait), ce qui leur intéressait à eux, c'était l'impression de dehors; l'affaire de la présidence, ne se voyant pas de dehors, les intéressait moins, ils restaient bien compensés du prétendu sacrifice. Et encore ils cédaient parce qu'ils étaient sûrs que sur ce point le Corps Diplomatique ne céderait pas.

41
F.O. 415 / 41
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Si ce n'était pas comme ça, pourquoi alors cette étrange répugnance à reconnaître que la présidence venait incontestablement au Corps Diplomatique?

Je ne sais pas me l'expliquer autrement. Je suis on ne peut plus honoré d'être votre Président par ancienneté, mais je ne tiendrais pas à l'être par concession Maure; et je ne me sentais pas en droit de, ayant eu ce doute, passer outre, leur permettant quoi que ce fût, sans que mes collègues eussent eu l'occasion de se prononcer. Mes fonctions sont passagères; je n'avais pas le droit, je ne voulais la responsabilité, de prendre la moindre des compromis. J'ai cru qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une question de pure forme.

J'avais un doute—c'était mon stricte devoir de le mettre au clair. Je n'y ai pas réussi, je suis resté plus douteux que je ne l'étais avant. C'est la vérité.

L'autre modification était plûtot de forme; aussi je n'ai pas trop insisté.

Après, très aimablement—et je l'en remercie—notre collègue d'Italie nous a dit que la traduction était mal faite, et je n'en doute pas un moment de sa compétence, il le sait. Dans l'Arabe il n'y avait pas le mot "laissant." Ce qui est dans l'Arabe c'est "maintenant" et "conservant"; c'est parfait, mais alors si cela en Arabe peut correspondre à la reconnaissance de l'incontestabilité de la présidence au Corps Diplomatique, pourquoi ne pas l'avoir dit?

Le motif allégué de se tenir à ce qui était écrit dans la lettre n'existerait plus.

Mon devoir c'était de vous dire ceci—à vous, mes honorables collègues, de résoudre, à moi de communiquer, votre résolution. Et je finis par où j'ai commencé. J'envisage cette affaire le plus impersonnellement possible.

Quand, agissant comme doyen, j'ai l'honneur d'avoir, pour ainsi dire, la représentation de tous, et ma manière de voir, quand même j'en aurais en vue—ce qui n'est pas le cas présent—elle n'y entrerait pour rien.

Je crois avoir fait mon devoir, et j'espère, pendant que mon Gouvernement me conservera ici, de continuer de le faire, et ceci, comme il le veut et moi aussi, avec la plus grande impartialité. Je vous ai fait une narration de faits; je n'ai pas exprimé d'avis. Vous apprécierez si mes doutes ont raison d'être.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Declaration by the French Minister.

LE Ministre de France estime que chacun des Représentants des Puissances pourrait faire connaître les instructions qu'il a reçues à ce sujet de son Gouvernement. En ce qui le concerne, celles qui lui ont été adressées lui prescrivent de s'attacher avant toutes choses à donner au doyen pleine et entière satisfaction de ne pas céder sur la question de la présidence, et enfin d'exprimer au Comte de Martens Ferrão des remerciements pour avoir poursuivi avec succès une négociation délicate.

M. Regnault lit la déclaration suivante:—

"Le Corps Diplomatique a pris connaissance de la lettre du Représentant du Sultan, en date du 29 Heggia-el-Haram, ainsi que des déclarations faites personnellement par son Excellence El Mokri au Comte de Martens Ferrão et transcrites dans la Circulaire du 15 Février courant."

En présence des témoignages particuliers de courtoisie qui ont été réitérés à son doyen, le Corps Diplomatique a décidé d'examiner de nouveau la question soulevée par la Délégation Chérifienne. Il résulte des textes précités que désormais la maison préparée sur l'ordre de Sultan pour les réunions où sont élaborés les règlements prévus à l'Acte d'Algésiras était mise par Sa Majesté Chérifienne à l'entière disposition du Corps Diplomatique et par conséquent du doyen de ce Corps, qui seul a qualité pour le représenter. En second lieu, il est formellement reconnu par la Délégation Chérifienne que les réunions tenues avec les membres de la dite Délégation seront présidées par le doyen du Corps Diplomatique.

Tenant compte des satisfactions qui sont ainsi données par le Makhzen aux observations formulées dès le début de l'affaire, je propose que le Corps Diplomatique décide de prendre acte des déclarations contenues dans les textes précités, et prie son doyen d'accepter l'offre gracieuse par laquelle, d'ordre de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, la Délégation Marocaine met à son entière disposition la maison du Makhzen pour y tenir sous sa présidence les reunions prévues à l'Acte d'Algésiras. Les décisions qui précèdent devraient être, suivant moi, portées par lettre du doyen à la connaissance de la Délégation Chérifienne. Dans cette lettre il serait spécifié que la communication de Torres et les déclarations de Mokhri établissent que la présidence des réunions

appartient d'une façon incontestée au doyen du Corps Diplomatique. Pour répondre aux justes observations que vient de formuler notre doyen, j'ajoute que si j'avais l'honneur d'exercer la charge de doyen du Corps Diplomatique, j'accepterais sans hésitation, dans les circonstances actuelles et dans les conditions qui précèdent, la proposition de la Délégation Chérifienne.

Enfin je propose que le Corps Diplomatique exprime à son Excellence le Comte de Martens Ferrão, Ministre de Portugal au Maroc, son honorable et respecté doyen, ses remerciements empressés pour avoir, grâce à la bienveillante autorité, réussi à dissiper des malentendus qui empêcheraient la solution de cet incident.

Inclosure 3 in No. 100.

Doyen of Diplomatic Body to Sid Torres.

JE suis chargé par mes honorables collègues de répondre à la lettre de votre Excellence en date du 29 Heggia-el-Haram, 1324, qu'elle m'a fait remettre personnellement par son Excellence El Mokri le 14 de ce mois.

Dans cette votre lettre Excellence rappelle la demande qu'elle avait précédemment adressée au sujet du local des réunions plénières du Corps Diplomatique avec la Délégation Chérifienne pour l'élaboration des règlements prévus par l'Acte Général d'Algésiras.

Vous dites que la Délégation Marocaine ne cesse d'entretenir l'espoir que le Corps Diplomatique lui accordera la faveur de se réunir avec elle dans la maison qui a été préparée par le Makhzen à cet effet, et ceci en signe de respect et de déférence envers l'assemblée des honorables Représentants, tout en maintenant la présidence pour les travaux précités au doyen du Corps Diplomatique. Votre Excellence espérait en conséquence que le doyen accorderait cette faveur et qu'il informerait le Corps Diplomatique que la dite maison était mise à sa disposition.

Je me suis fait un devoir de communiquer sans retard à mes honorables collègues votre lettre en même temps que les déclarations verbales que j'ai reçues de son Excellence El Mokhri à cette occasion.

Mes honorables collègues, en présence des témoignages de courtoisie réitérés qui sont adressés au doyen, ont décidé d'examiner de nouveau cette question. Ils ont constaté que la teneur de votre lettre et les déclarations verbales de son Excellence El Mokhri établissent que la présidence des réunions appartient d'une façon incontestée au doyen et que la maison est mise à son entière disposition. Dans ces conditions, et conformément aux instructions reçues de leurs Gouvernements, les honorables Représentants des Puissances ont décidé à l'unanimité d'accepter l'offre gracieuse faite au Corps Diplomatique au nom de Sa Majesté Chérifienne. En conséquence les réunions pour lesquelles je ne manquerai pas d'envoyer à votre Excellence des avis de convocation auront lieu désormais à la Casbah.

(Compliments.)

Le 25 Février, 1907.

[7099]

No. 101.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)

Sir, *Madrid, March* 1, 1907.

THE French Ambassador informed me yesterday that the French and Spanish Governments had agreed upon a draft set of Regulations for the guidance of the new Police Inspectors in Morocco; that the draft would, it was hoped, enable the Senior Police Inspectors and the Moorish Minister of War, or his representative, to draw up at Tangier without delay the formal Regulations for the new police, as required by Article 4 of the General Act of Algeciras; and that after acceptance by the Diplomatic Body at Tangier, the new Regulations would immediately take effect. M. Jules Cambon sees no reason why the newly organized police should not be set to work in the course of the month of April.

His Excellency expects that the State Bank of Morocco, the constitution of which is now settled, will be able to commence operations at about the same date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

F.O. 413/44
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[7119] No. 102.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 118.)

Sir, *Paris, March* 3, 1907.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch No. 102 of the 25th ultimo, Mr. Lister took advantage of M. Pichon's weekly reception on the 27th ultimo to leave with his Excellency a Memorandum, copy of which is inclosed herewith, recording the reservations under which the Tribunal of Lausanne accepts the competence bestowed by the Conference of Algeciras, and stating that, in your opinion, the first was a question of form with which His Majesty's Government were not concerned, and that you were disposed to accept the second, which appeared natural and reasonable.

M. Pichon said he would look into the matter and let Mr. Lister have an answer without delay.

The inclosed Memorandum was received yesterday afternoon at the Embassy, but Mr. Lister noticed that the French version of the second reservation was different from that communicated in your despatch under reply, the Tribunal of Lausanne being substituted for the Federal Council. Mr. Lister caused inquiry to be made at the Quai d'Orsay, and was informed by the Head of the Department which deals with Moroccan affairs that, in the note addressed by the Council to the Spanish Representative at Berne, a copy of which had been communicated to the French Government, it was certainly the Tribunal of Lausanne, and not the Federal Council, which was intended to have the right to determine the procedure and the details referring to the execution of the Commission received.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of the Ambassador),
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 102.

Memorandum.

(Copy.)

LE Conseil Fédéral Suisse a adressé au Représentant d'Espagne à Berne une note par laquelle il lui fait savoir que le Tribunal de Lausanne accepte sous les réserves suivantes la compétence que lui a attribuée la Conférence d'Algésiras :—

1. Que la décision du Conseil Fédéral devra être ratifiée par les Chambres Suisses.

2. Que le Conseil Fédéral aura le droit de déterminer la procédure à adopter par le susdit Tribunal et qu'il arrêtera également par la même procédure tous les détails concernant l'exécution de la Commission reçue.

La première réserve n'est qu'une de forme, et ne concerne pas le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté. La seconde paraît raisonnable et naturelle, et Sir Edward Grey serait tout disposé à l'accepter.

Paris, le 20 *Février*, 1907.

Inclosure 2 in No. 102.

Memorandum.

SON Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne a bien voulu faire connaître au Département, par une note en date d'hier, que son Gouvernement était disposé à admettre les réserves formulées par le Gouvernement Helvétique, en ce qui concerne l'acceptation de la compétence déférée au Tribunal Fédéral de Lausanne par l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Le Gouvernement de la République est en complet accord de vues avec Sir Edward Grey sur cette question. Il lui paraît, comme au Gouvernement Britannique, qu'il appartient naturellement au Tribunal de Lausanne de déterminer la procédure des actions que cette Cour aura à juger et tous les détails d'exécution du mandat qu'elle a reçu.

Paris, le 1*er Mars*, 1907.

[5977] No. 102*.

Memorandum communicated to M. Cambon, March 6, 1907.

ACCORDING to a report received from the British Minister at Tangier, a structure, which has the appearance of being intended for wireless telegraphy, has been put up at Dar-al-Baida by a French subject named Bopp, and a similar construction is being erected at Tangier, whilst it is reported that a scheme exists for extending wireless connection from these points all along the Moorish coast. These reports have found their way into the newspaper press, and are causing some comment.

In these circumstances we should be glad to be furnished with any information respecting the subject which may be in the possession of the French Government.

The reason for making the inquiry is that we desire to continue our support to the French Government, and are afraid in this matter that we might be placed in an embarrassing position, owing to the fact that the old-established and well-known British signalling station at Cape Spartel, close to Tangier, applied as long ago as 1903 for permission to erect a wireless installation. The sole reason why the application was not followed up actively at the time was the desire to await the result of the international deliberations on the whole subject of wireless telegraphy which were then contemplated, and which have since taken place at Berlin.

The application was, however, made with the approval of His Majesty's Government, and the Maghzen were given to understand that, when the moment should arrive for granting such a Concession, we expected that the prior claim of the Cape Spartel signal station would be recognized. We had no reason to believe that the Maghzen questioned the justice of that claim.

It is certain that the Committee of Lloyd's, who own and work the Cape Spartel establishment, would naturally consider that, after all that has passed, they were entitled to the full support of His Majesty's Government in making good their claim. And it is feared that a wireless station at Tangier would practically render impracticable the proposed installation at Cape Spartel, owing to the small intervening distance.

This is the special circumstance which has led us to make the inquiry in advance, in order to avoid being placed in an embarrassing position should we receive an application from Lloyd's later on.

There is, of course, the general question as to what difficulties would ensue if some other Power were to invoke the stipulations of Articles 105–107 of the Algeciras Act, and were to claim that the establishment of a wireless telegraphy station would fall under the head of those public services which are made subject to the system of competition by public tender, and cannot therefore form the subject of a Concession by the Maghzen without the previous approval of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier.

But this is, of course, a point which is as much within the cognizance of the French Government as of our own.

Foreign Office, March 6, 1907.

F.O. 415/44 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

[7442]

No. 103.

Sir G. Bonham to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Berne, ~~February~~ 5, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I was to-day informed at the Foreign Department that Colonel Armin Müller, the Inspector-General of Police in Morocco, accompanied by Captain Fischer, intend leaving Berne to-morrow for Tangier, hoping to arrive there about the 14th instant, the Sultan's consent having reached Berne on the 1st instant.

Colonel Müller's appointment rested with the Federal Council. The question of the acceptance by the Federal Tribunal of the duties assigned to it by the Congress at Algeciras with regard to the newly-established Bank of Morocco requires the sanction of the Federal Assembly, and will be laid before that body when it meets on the 2nd April.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BONHAM.

[7530]

No. 104.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Paris, March 7, 1907.

MOROCCO. Appointment of engineer.

Mr. Lowther's telegram No. 15 of the 1st instant.

M. Pichon spoke last night of the action taken by Belgium in connection with the candidature of the Belgian engineer, of which he complained bitterly. He considered this action to be certainly due to the instigation of the German Minister. Belgium, he said, was dependent in many ways on France, and he had every intention of making her feel it. The French Minister at Brussels has accordingly been instructed to notify M. Pichon's displeasure to M. de Favereau.

[6766]

No. 105.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 126.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 7, 1907.

THE Spanish Ambassador called at this Office on the 28th ultimo and left a Memorandum to the effect that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier had expressed his adherence to the views held by the Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Spain, with regard to the best method of dealing with the Moorish interpretations of the Algeciras Act, namely, that this question should, if possible, be avoided altogether; but that, in the event of the Moorish Delegates themselves bringing it forward at one of the meetings of the Corps Diplomatique, the Representatives of the Powers above mentioned should come to an agreement between themselves as to the course of action to be followed.

The Memorandum went on to say that the Spanish Government, who had reason to believe that such a course would commend itself to some of the foreign Ministers at Tangier, were anxious to learn the views of His Majesty's Government; they would be prepared, on their part, to instruct their Representative to act on these lines, on the understanding that he should in each case concert with his British and French colleagues, and decide in common with them whether the questions raised by the Moorish Delegates should be discussed, or whether they should at once be rejected.

The views of the Spanish Government, as explained in Señor de Villa Urrutia's Memorandum, appear reasonable to His Majesty's Government; but, before sending a reply to his Excellency, I should be glad to receive an expression of opinion of the French Government on this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[7547] No. 106.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey —(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 7, 1907.

WIRELESS telegraphy.

Some of my colleagues have questioned the French Minister on this subject. He has admitted to me spontaneously that stations are being erected. M. Regnault considers this not to be a contravention of the Algeciras Act, as all the stations will be on private property. State funds are not required, and no concession is asked for. He states that the general public will, of course, benefit by the concern, and that he has no power to interfere with it as it is private.

[7548] No. 107.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 7, 1907.

STATE Engineer.

With reference to my telegram No. 15 of the 1st instant, the French Minister tells me that he has been informed by our Belgian colleague that the Belgian Government have actually selected a candidate for this post.

[7735] No. 108.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1907.

YOUR telegram No. 17 [State Engineer for Morocco].

French Government hold, and I agree, that under Article 66 of Algeciras Act selection of engineer rests primarily with Diplomatic Body, although their choice remains subject to Sultan's approval.

French Government has decided to put forward name of M. Porché, and you should give this candidature your full support.

[7692] No. ~~110~~. 109

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 47.)
Sir,

Tangier, March 1, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17, Confidential, of the 17th January, I have the honour to report that the Belgian Minister has received a note from Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, asking him whether he would not be prepared to put forward the candidature of a Belgian engineer for the control of public works, provided for under Article 66 of the Act of Algeciras.

Ben Sliman adds in his note that, should the Belgian Minister see his way to do this, he trusts that he may further urge his colleagues of the Diplomatic Body to support such a candidature.

The Belgian Minister informed me himself of the receipt of this note, and intends, I believe, to communicate its substance to all his colleagues. The French Minister, on receiving this information, observed that for his part he could not support the candidature of the Belgian, as he himself had a French engineer with the best possible references to propose.

It is significant that the Makhzen should have taken the initiative in this question, as it is the only indication that they have shown to put into force the Act of Algeciras, and I think that there can be little doubt that their zeal in the matter has been prompted by the German Minister, who realizes that the candidature of a German engineer would not have much chance of success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[7694] No. 110.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 49.)
Sir,

Tangier, March 1, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to report that His Majesty the Sultan has approved of the choice of the Swiss officer who has been appointed under Article 7 of the Act of Algeciras to fill the post of Inspector-General of the French and Spanish police. His Majesty has, however, so far omitted to notify his approval of the officers and non-commissioned officers named by those Powers. It is quite possible that His Majesty may be withholding this consent until he has received a reply to the observations made by the Makhzen on the Act of Algeciras and communicated to M. Malmusi at Fez and reiterated by note to the Spanish Minister.

These observations contain queries regarding Articles 3 and 4 of the Act, which deal with the foreign police, and the foreign Representatives have not been able to agree as to the reply to be sent to the Makhzen's "questionnaire," though an agreement seems now more probable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[8084] No. 111.

The Eastern Telegraph Company to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 12.)

Sir,

Electra House, Finsbury Pavement, London, March 11, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to refer to my visit to the Foreign Office on the 7th instant, with reference to the establishment of wireless and other telegraphs in the Empire of Morocco.

Mr. Gerald Talbot has offered to procure this Company a Concession for establishing wireless communication between Tangier and Fez, to be worked either on behalf of the Sultan of Morocco or of a private Company, but, before entering into negotiations on the subject, my Company would be glad to know how the terms of the General Act of the Conference at Algeciras affect the case.

I think the following questions express the Company's position in the matter, and I should be glad if an opinion could be given on the same:—

1. If the Eastern Telegraph Company were to install wireless telegraphy and make a present of the same to the Sultan, would the Sultan have the power to arrange that the Eastern Telegraph Company should work such telegraphs on his behalf?

2. If the Sultan had wireless or other telegraph communication belonging to him personally, would he have the power to stop any other installation being established and worked?

3. Would he have the power to allow others to use this private installation, charging them a rate per word, without infringing the stipulations of the Algeciras Conference?

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. DENISON PENDER,
Vice-Chairman and Managing Director.

[8344] No. 112.

Sir E. Egerton to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, March* 14, 1907.

THE French Ambassador, under orders from his Government, has expressed himself anxious that I may be instructed to support him in pressing Signor Tittoni to support the appointment, in Morocco, of a French Engineer, approved by the Corps Diplomatique, instead of a Belgian, as the Sultan proposes.

[8353] No. 113.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 130.)

Sir, *Paris, March 14, 1907.*

I COMMUNICATED to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your despatch No. 126 of the 7th instant, relative to the course of action proposed by the Spanish Government in regard to the Moorish interpretation of the Algeciras Act, and I inquired as to the views entertained on the subject by the French Government.

I have to-day received a communication from M. Pichon, copy of which I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, informing me that at a meeting of the Diplomatic Corps and the Representatives of the Sultan, held at Tangier on the 12th instant, the doyen read to the Moroccan delegation a note in regard to the reservations of the Sultan, the text of which had been prepared by the French and British Representatives, and approved unanimously by the Diplomatic Corps.

M. Pichon adds that the incident may therefore be considered to have been settled in conformity with the wishes of the French and British Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Note communicated by M. Pichon to Sir F. Bertie.

PAR une note verbale en date du 10 de ce mois, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne a bien voulu faire connaître au Département que le Gouvernement Britannique avait été interrogé par l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne à Londres sur la réponse qu'il convenait de faire aux observations du Maghzen relatives à l'Acte d'Algésiras. Sir Edward Grey exprimait le désir de connaître les vues du Gouvernement de la République sur ce sujet.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères vient de recevoir un télégramme du Ministre de France à Tanger d'où il ressort que la question a été réglée hier à la Conférence tenue par le Corps Diplomatique et les Représentants du Sultan. Au cours de cette réunion, les Délégués Chérifiens ont demandé qu'il fût répondu aux réserves formulées par le Gouvernement Marocain et transmises à l'Espagne par M. Malmusi. Le doyen du Corps Diplomatique, sur une proposition acceptée par l'unanimité de ses collègues, a lu, et doit remettre en copie au Chef de la Délégation Marocaine, une note dont le texte avait été préalablement concerté entre les Représentants Français et Anglais, et ceux de leurs collègues qui appuient ordinairement leur action.

Il est donc permis de considérer cet incident comme terminé par une solution conforme aux désirs des deux Gouvernements Français et Anglais.

Le 13 Mars, 1907.

[8427] No. 114.

Sir E. Egerton to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, March 15, 1907.*

MY telegram No. 2 of yesterday: Morocco.

The attitude of Austria and Germany with regard to the question of the State Engineer for Morocco, embarrasses Signor Tittoni considerably. Trusting in the timidity of M. Isvolsky where Germany is concerned, and in the fact that the question, though one of principle, is unimportant, his Excellency has appealed to the Russian Ambassador to request the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs to moderate the tone taken by France in this matter.

F.O. 413 / 44
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[8344] No. 115*.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1907.

STATE Engineer in Morocco.

You should give strong support to French Ambassador in the manner indicated in your telegram No. 2 of yesterday.

[8434] No. 115.

Sir E. Egerton to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, March* 15, 1907.

MY telegram of yesterday No. 2: Morocco.

The French Ambassador trusts that I may be immediately instructed to approach Signor Tittoni on the subject of the Engineer, as that question is to be treated at Tangier on Monday next.

[8454] No. 116.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 52.)
Sir, *Tangier, March* 5, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from the Acting Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting that the works on the proposed harbour at that port are to be commenced at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Acting Consul Lomas to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, March* 1, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to report that I elicited, in the course of a conversation with my French colleague, the news that the works upon the proposed harbour at this port are to be commenced at once, as soon as the weather permits. M. Malpertuy informed me that he was expecting the engineers by the next steamer from Marseilles, due here on the 6th instant. The works will be executed for the concessionnaires, the "Compagnie Marocaine," by the firm of Schneider (Creusot).

The Makhzen are to supply stone and water, which will both be obtained from Ain Mazi, at a distance of a quarter of an hour to the north-east of the town on the sea-shore. This place will be connected with the town by a Decauville railway, which will approach the water port by the new gate, which has up till now been closed, on the shore between the sanctuary of Sidi Billiot and the water port gate. The Makhzen will also secure, as far as possible, all the workmen, who will be natives, with the exception, presumably, of the mechanics and overseers.

I am unable to say what form the works are to take, as M. Malpertuy had not seen the plans, nor, in fact, had the above information been communicated to him officially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST G. LOMAS.

[8455] No. 117.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Tangier, March* 7, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the German Minister spoke to me yesterday regarding the reported installation by a Frenchman of a system of wireless telegraphy here and at certain of the ports. He had no longer any doubt that it was not a mere report, for he had definite information from various quarters. As to the nature of the buildings in course of construction, if a private establishment of this kind were allowed to exist owned by a Frenchman and used exclusively for their trade it would spell ruin to all other merchants along the coast. In Dr. Rosen's opinion Article 105 of the Algeciras Act entirely covered the question, and wireless telegraphy was as much a public service of the State

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as a railway would be, and he had discouraged scores of applicants with railway schemes, pointing out to them that under the Algeciras Act the Sultan could not grant Concessions of this nature at his pleasure.

I asked Dr. Rosen whether there was anything in the Berlin Act on wireless telegraphy of last year which would prevent the installation in question, but he replied that he did not know, for he was not well acquainted with the Act. I have, however, been assured that Dr. Rosen a few days ago privately advised His Majesty the Sultan to adhere to the Act.

Dr. Rosen finally stated that the French Legation when questioned regarding these structures had stated that they were intended for pumping water, but he now understood that this explanation was no longer put forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[8457] No. 118.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 55.)

Sir,

Tangier, March 7, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, no steps having apparently yet been taken by the Sultan to give effect to the provisions of the Algeciras Act in regard to the coasting trade, the acquisition of real property by foreigners, and the export of cattle, it was decided by the Diplomatic Body unanimously that the doyen should address a letter on the subject to the Shereefian Court.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the draft of this letter, which has been approved by all the foreign Representatives and sent to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Letter addressed by the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body to Sid-ben-Sliman.

VOTRE Excellence sait qu'un certain nombre des dispositions de l'Acte d'Algésiras, dont l'application ne nécessite pas l'élaboration de Règlements spéciaux, auraient dû entrer en vigueur dès le dépôt des ratifications. Ce sont les Articles 13, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, et 30 du Chapitre II, édictant des mesures pour prohiber et réprimer l'importation des armes et munitions de guerre ; l'Article 60, relatif à la faculté d'acquérir des propriétés immobilières accordée aux Européens dans une certaine zone sans autorisation spéciale ; l'Article 68, sur l'exportation par tous les ports du bétail de l'espèce bovine ; l'Article 69, sur le libre cabotage des marchandises ; l'Article 72, sur l'importation de l'opium et du kif ; les Articles 77 à 104, composant le Chapitre V et concernant la réglementation des douanes de l'Empire et la répression de la fraude et de la contrebande.

Cependant, aucune de ces matières n'a encore fait l'objet de décisions de la part du Makhzen Chérifien. D'autre part, il est revenu aux Représentants des Puissances que la contrebande des armes de guerre s'exerçait avec plus d'intensité encore que par le passé, que les Oumana des ports s'opposaient au libre exercice du cabotage et que les autorités administratives et judiciaires continuaient à apporter la plus grande mauvaise volonté à enregistrer les actes de vente relatifs aux immeubles.

Il résulte de ce qui précède que l'Acte d'Algésiras, bien que ratifié depuis deux mois, est demeuré jusqu'ici sans application. Une pareille situation lèse beaucoup d'intérêts, provoque des plaintes nombreuses, et le Corps Diplomatique ne peut comprendre les raisons qui empêchent le Gouvernement Chérifien d'exécuter les réformes qu'il a ratifiées. C'est pourquoi les Représentants des Puissances ont délibéré à ce sujet et ont décidé d'entretenir de cette affaire les Délégués que Sa Majesté a envoyés à Tanger pour collaborer à l'élaboration des nouveaux Règlements. Ceux-ci ont répondu que seule la nécessité de traduire en Arabe et d'envoyer à Fez les pièces constatant l'échange des ratifications avait fait obstacle au vif désir de Sa Majesté de voir appliquer dans le plus court délai les décisions de la Conférence. Aujourd'hui, cependant, ces formalités sont accomplies depuis longtemps sans que le

Makhzen ait pris aucune disposition nouvelle. Le Corps Diplomatique s'est donc réuni à nouveau et a décidé à l'unanimité d'adresser à votre Excellence une lettre collective lui signalant combien ces retards étaient préjudiciables aux intérêts de tous et en même temps donnaient lieu à de fâcheux commentaires sur le concours que le Makhzen entendait prêter à l'Acte d'Algésiras. Il m'a chargé, en ma qualité de doyen, d'insister d'une façon toute particulière auprès de votre Excellence pour lui rappeler les Articles de l'Acte d'Algésiras cités plus haut, afin qu'ils soient mis en application dans le plus bref délai. Je prie votre Excellence de bien vouloir entretenir Sa Majesté Chérifienne de la démarche que mes collègues m'ont chargé de faire, confiants que sa Majesté, conformément aux intentions qu'elle s'est plu à manifester dans diverses circonstances, en appreciera le bien-fondé et qu'elle voudra bien ordonner que des instructions conformes aux dispositions de l'Acte d'Algésiras soient adressées sans retard aux autorités judiciaires et administratives de l'Empire.

(Compliments.)

[8458] No. 119.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 56.)

Sir,

Tangier, March 7, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26 of the 31st January, I have the honour to state that a well-confirmed report has reached here to the effect that Moulai Mohammed Bulhaish, one of the brothers known under the name of Valiente, had died near Ceuta. This is not the person who played the leading rôle in the capture of the British officers between Tetuan and Ceuta in October 1905, but his brother, and he was the principal prisoner released on that occasion in exchange for the officers. He enjoyed the reputation of having committed some twenty murders in his lifetime. There appears to be a general impression that this brigand met with his death through poison administered on official orders, but it is more likely that he died a natural death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[8459] No. 120.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 57.)

Sir,

Tangier, March 8, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 22nd ultimo, M. Regnault, the French Minister, called upon me yesterday, and mentioned that he had been questioned by some of his colleagues regarding some wireless telegraphy stations which were said to be in course of installation by a Frenchman in this country, and which had made a considerable stir in the European papers. He was prepared to repeat to me the replies he had given to my colleagues, which were to the following effect :—

A certain M. Popp, of German or Austrian origin, but now a French citizen, had recently applied to him for introductions in connection with certain agricultural and industrial enterprises in this country, and had mentioned some pumping apparatus which he had intended to install. Until quite recently he had heard nothing more about the man until the stir came about the wireless telegraphy installation. He had had no idea of M. Popp's intention in that direction. Inquiry revealed the fact that these installations were destined for wireless telegraphy, but the French Minister was at a loss to see how any one would find a grievance in this, or how he himself could be expected to interfere in what he considered a private and legitimate enterprise for the sale of news disseminated over a private system. Indeed, he said he saw no difference between this and a merchant who sold flour. No Article of the Act of Algeciras was infringed, for every one was equally at liberty to establish similar stations, and there was no question of recourse being had to foreign capital, nor was any concession asked for. And these stations would not exist for the benefit of special individuals or interests. They would no doubt be undertaken for the general interest of the public, and it would obviously be to the advantage of the owners to put no limit on their use.

M. Regnault asked me if Dr. Rosen had spoken to me on the subject. I replied

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

that he had, and that, in his opinion, these stations would be in direct contravention of Article 105 of the Algeciras Act.

I confined myself to expressing great interest in the question, but, in the absence of instructions from you, I did not commit myself to any view, nor did I remind him that when the question had been raised in a practical form by my predecessor four years ago it was the French Minister who obstructed it on the grounds that it was a matter which he believed was one which was about to form the subject of an international investigation.

I inclose a copy of Sir A. Nicolson's letter to his colleagues, together with their annotations upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Sir A. Nicolson to Foreign Representatives.

MM. et chers Collègues, *Tanger, le 22 Mars*, 1903.

LE sémaphore de Lloyd au Cap Spartel désire ériger un mât pour établir communication avec Gibraltar par système Marconi afin d'améliorer et accélérer son service. J'ai demandé la permission au Gouvernement Marocain, et ils n'y voient aucune objection ; mais je voudrais en même temps m'assurer de votre assentiment, comme c'est une question d'intérêt général. Je n'en doute pas que vous voudriez bien l'accorder.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. NICOLSON.

Observations of Foreign Representatives on Foregoing Letter.

Je crois interpréter d'avance la pensée de mon Gouvernement en adhérant avec empressement à la proposition qui nous est faite, et dont je désire la plus prochaine réalisation.

(Signé) MALMUSI.

D'accord.

(Signé) COLOGAN.
GUMMERÉ.
MARTENS FERRAO.
CRENNEVILLE.

Le fonctionnement du sémaphore du Cap Spartel étant réglé par un accord entre l'Angleterre et la France, auquel ont successivement adhéré les Puissances intéressées, y compris la Russie, je ne crois pas pouvoir, en ce qui me concerne, me prononcer sur la question qui nous est soumise avant d'en avoir référé à mon Gouvernement.

(Signé) BACHERACHT.

Pour les mêmes raisons que notre collègue de Russie, je me crois tenu d'en référer à mon Gouvernement. Je le crois d'autant plus utile que si je suis bien renseigné diverses questions assez complexes que soulève l'application maritime du système Marconi doivent faire l'objet d'un examen international.

(Signé) G. SAINT-RENÉ TAILLANDIER.

Je crois l'installation proposée très utile, mais vu les réserves faites par MM. les Ministres de Russie et de France, je remets mon vote à plus tard.

(Signé) MENZINGEN.

Je dois également en référer à mon Gouvernement.

(Signé) BUISSERET.

M. le Doyen et cher Collègue, *Tanger, le 22 Mars*, 1903.

En signant la Circulaire concernant l'établissement d'un appareil Marconi au Cap Spartel j'ai oublié d'ajouter que, quoique personnellement du même avis que le Ministre d'Italie, l'accord définitif dépendait encore de mon Gouvernement. Je vous prierai donc de prendre note de cette déclaration.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) V. CRENNEVILLE.

[8460] No. 121.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 58.)

Sir, *Tangier, March 8*, 1907.

IN my despatch No. 2 of the 2nd January I forwarded to you a copy of a note addressed by Hadj Mohammed Torres to the Spanish Minister, containing a series of questions on the interpretation to be given to certain Articles of the Act of Algeciras. The Spanish Minister was instructed by his Government not to reply on behalf of the Diplomatic Body, and many weeks have passed without any definite decision being arrived at.

On the 21st January you informed me that the Portuguese Minister here had been instructed to support my French and Spanish colleagues and myself, subject to endeavours to be made by him as doyen of the Diplomatic Body, to secure unanimity among the foreign Representatives as to the reply to be given to the Moorish Government. These endeavours, however, failed, and the French and Spanish Ministers, in concurrence with the Portuguese Minister, then invited me to see Dr. Rosen and endeavour to agree with him unofficially as to a formula for a reply. I found Dr. Rosen quite prepared to discuss the matter in the most friendly way, and, indeed, the instructions he had received, and which he read to me, seemed to be not very dissimilar from those received by my colleagues. Replies to the "questionnaire" were agreed upon between us, and to-day at an unofficial meeting of the Diplomatic Corps these replies were finally unanimously accepted. It was decided that, should the Moorish Delegates again raise the question, the inclosed Declaration should be read to them by the doyen together with the replies to their various queries, which are also annexed, immediately following the queries. Should the Moorish Delegates not raise the question no action should be taken on our part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Proposed Declaration by Diplomatic Corps.

LES Représentants des Puissances à Tanger, après avoir examiné le questionnaire Marocain qui leur a été communiqué par l'entremise du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, déclarent qu'ils n'ont pas qualité pour commenter et, par conséquent, remettre éventuellement en discussion aucune des clauses de l'Acte International d'Algésiras, qui a été définitivement ratifié et est entré en vigueur dans sa teneur intégrale le 1er Janvier, 1907.

Toutefois, en présence des demandes renouvelées des Délégués Chérifiens, les Représentants étrangers sont tombés d'accord pour fournir à la Délégation Marocaine, dans le cours des travaux actuellement entrepris pour la mise à exécution des stipulations de l'Acte d'Algésiras, les éclaircissements qui sont demandés par Sa Majesté Chérifienne.

F.O. 413/44
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Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Note setting forth Replies of Moorish Delegates to certain Articles of Algeciras Act.

Article 3. Si le Makhzen désire remplacer un des officiers instructeurs ou le transférer d'un port à l'autre, il l'effectuera.

Le Makhzen interprète cet Article dans le sens que ni la France ni l'Espagne auront d'autres privilèges que ceux des autres Puissances.

A la suite du rappel ou du remplacement d'un officier prononcé par le Gouvernement auquel il ressortit, l'agrément de Sa Majesté Chérifienne sera sollicité pour le nouveau titulaire, si cet agrément n'a pas été précédemment obtenu.

La réponse au deuxième paragraphe se trouve implicitement donnée par les principes posés dans le préambule de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Article 4. Le Makhzen demande qu'on précise que les officiers instructeurs seront des Européens et pas des indigènes provenant des Colonies, connaissant parfaitement la langue Arabe. Les ordres de commandement seront en langue Arabe pour la meilleure exécution des exercices militaires par les soldats indigènes. A l'expiration du délai de cinq ans, les instructeurs retourneront dans leur pays avec la reconnaissance du Makhzen, et ils seront remplacés par des officiers sujets du Sultan.

Les officiers instructeurs devront, autant que possible, connaître la langue Arabe. En ce qui concerne les sous-officiers, la question a déjà fait l'objet d'une déclaration de M. Révoil à Algésiras (dixième séance de Comité, Annexe No. 3).

Les commandements seront faits en langue Arabe. Quant au délai, les explications fournies à ce sujet sont suffisamment concluantes (dixième séance de Comité, Annexe No. 3).

Article 9. D'après cet Article, le Makhzen entend que la nature des réclamations sur lesquelles l'Inspecteur-Général devra faire une enquête sera spécifiée dans le sens qu'il s'agit de réclamations concernant la police.

C'est évident.

Article 18. Le Makhzen demande qu'on déclare que le permis pour la vente des armes de chasse et de luxe par ses sujets lui soit réservé.

Ce monopole n'a pas été reconnu par l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Article 35. Étant de notoriété publique que les intérêts ne sont appliqués que sur les sommes effectivement retirées, le Makhzen demande que l'on déclare que ces intérêts ne seront comptés que sur les sommes prélevées jusqu'à concurrence des deux tiers du capital de la banque.

En ce qui touche les questions relatives à la banque, le Haut Commissaire et l'Administrateur Chérifien ont qualité et compétence pour fournir les éclaircissements nécessaires.

Article 67 La Conférence ayant exprimé le vœu qu'on réduise les droits d'exportation sur les grains, le Makhzen répond que s'il lui était possible, il le ferait certainement, mais qu'étant donné que les besoins et circonstances du pays ne sont pas favorables, il demande que les droits actuels soient maintenus.

Les Représentants des Puissances espèrent que les circonstances deviendront favorables à l'introduction de cette réforme.

Acticle 97. Le but du Comité Permanent (Comité des Douanes) étant de surveiller constamment ce service jusqu'à son fonctionnement normal, le Makhzen souhaiterait qu'on déclare plus clairement, en Arabe, qu'une fois l'organisation achevée (dans les trois ans du délai accordé), le Comité sera dissout.

Dans le cas où le Comité n'aurait pu atteindre son but dans la période de trois ans, le Makhzen proposerait un nouvean délai suffisant pour la parfaite réorganisation des services des douanes dont il s'agit.

Le 40 pour cent de recettes des douanes ainsi que l'excédent du 60 pour cent

sera encaissé par la banque durant la période accordée pour l'organisation du service des douanes stipulé dans l'Article 97 de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras.

A l'expiration de ce délai le Makhzen pourra, à son gré, faire ou non ces versements à la banque.

Il est évident que le Comité des Douanes est permanent, ainsi que le dit l'Article.

L'Article 33 déclare que les 40 pour cent des revenus des douanes doivent être versés dans les caisses de la banque ; il n'y a aucune limitation à la durée pendant laquelle ce versement sera effectué, sauf celle dérivant de la Concession accordée à la banque, qui est de quarante années.

[8462]

No. 122.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 60.)

Sir,

Tangier, March 9, 1907.

AT the meeting of the foreign Representatives held yesterday to discuss the question of the reply to be given to the Moorish Government to the request for explanation regarding certain Articles of the Algeciras Act, Mr. Gummere, the United States' Minister, made a declaration as to the views of his Government on this question. I have been courteously furnished by Mr. Gummere with a copy of that declaration, which I have the honour to inclose herewith. In the form in which it was made it did not appear to be very clear or explicit, and I asked Mr. Gummere if he could throw any further light on it. He admitted that he did not himself fully understand these instructions, but he believed that they referred mainly to the question of the *questionnaire*, and that with regard to the attitude to be taken by him in the discussion of the Regulations he would receive more definite instructions later. Generally speaking, however, he interpreted these instructions to mean that he was always to vote with the majority of his colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Declaration by Mr. Gummere.

IN view of the reservation under which the United States became a signatory to the General Act of Algeciras, my Government does not feel that it can take part in the discussion of the application of the provisions of that Act in so far as they concern matters of administration prescribed thereby or in regard to such administrative matters as may not have been fully defined by the Act, and as to the carrying out of which agreement may be required among the Powers having charge of their provisions. The concern of the United States, however, extends to all questions affecting equality of commercial intercourse with Morocco and relating to the effective security of American citizens and their property in that Empire.

I am instructed to take no steps counter to the general sense of the Powers directly concerned in carrying out the politico-administrative stipulations of the General Act.

[8576]

No. 123.

Sir E. Egerton to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, March 16, 1907.

STATE Engineer for Morocco.

I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day, and spoke to him in the sense of the instructions contained in your telegram No. 2. Signor Tittoni suggested that the post in question should be given to the French Engineer, and that some other should be found for the Belgian. He said that M. Isvolsky was equally anxious to find some way out of the dilemma, and was equally undecided.

I replied that my instructions were only to give the French Ambassador my warm support.

F.O. 413 44
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[8596] No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 119. Confidential.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, March* 5, 1907.

M. ISVOLSKY mentioned to me last night that he had received a telegram from the Russian Ambassador in Paris, stating that the French Government were much annoyed at the article which had appeared in the "Revue des Deux Mondes," in which M. Tardieu disclosed certain confidential details connected with the Algeciras Conference. He asked me if I could corroborate the statements that Count Witte had telegraphed to the German Emperor, urging His Majesty to accept the French proposals, as the researches which were being made in his Department had, as yet, led to no trace of such communications. I said that I could not recollect at the moment anything positive in regard to direct communications between Count Witte and the German Emperor, though I must admit that, so far as I could judge from a summary which I had read of the article, most of the details given by M. Tardieu were absolutely accurate. I added that I much regretted that these old controversies had been revived, and I could not conceive what useful object could be served by such revelations. M. Isvolsky asked me if I had formed an opinion as to how M. Tardieu had become acquainted with confidential conversations between foreign diplomatists. I replied that I presumed that he had, during the Conference, had access to the archives at the Quai d'Orsay, as he wrote some very pertinent articles during that period, and he had probably, without the authority of the Government, now made use of the material which he had collected.

As we were on the subject of Morocco, I thought that an opportunity presented itself of speaking to him on the question mooted by M. Bompard, on which I reported in my despatch No. 107 of the 24th ultimo. I asked M. Isvolsky whether he had decided on the appointment of a Russian Minister at Tangier. He replied that he had not seriously considered the question, as he was well satisfied with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who was a very competent diplomatist, and had rendered useful services in composing differences. As his Excellency spoke in such warm terms of the Chargé d'Affaires, I did not consider that it would be prudent to carry the matter further, and I will so inform my French colleague.

M. Isvolsky added that a fresh difficulty had arisen over the appointment of an engineer, the Moorish Government having proposed a Belgian, to whom the French took exception. The French desired that a Frenchman should be named for the post, and the Germans objected to this. His Excellency said that he was not clear what were the duties of the engineer. I told him that I had heard nothing on the subject, but I presumed that the engineer was the expert who was to be named to examine the contracts for public works, and who was to be appointed by the Moorish Government in agreement with the Diplomatic Body at Tangier. It seemed to me that this was a question to be settled on the spot between the several foreign Representatives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[8858] No. 125.

Sir E. Egerton to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 48. Confidential.) P.

Sir, *Rome, March* 14, 1907.

THE French demand for the appointment of an Engineer, agreed to by the Diplomatic Body at Tangier, as laid down by Article 66 of the Algeciras Act, instead of an Engineer nominated by the Sultan, is not meeting with the support of Signor Tittoni, who is hesitating on this subject. Under these circumstances, the French Ambassador is of opinion that it would be most valuable if I might be instructed in this particular case to act in conjunction with him and with the Russian Ambassador.

M. Barrère considers that British assistance is very necessary, in order to keep Signor Tittoni straight. He is of opinion that the latter is more inclined to give way to Germany in Morocco affairs than his predecessors were. Signor Tittoni, previous to

the Algeciras Conference, was unwilling to appoint Signor Visconti-Venosta as Italian Delegate.

Signor Tittoni apparently made a complaint in confidence to the Russian Ambassador of the pressure being put upon him by M. Barrère—to whom M. Mouravieff repeated Signor Tittoni's words. This was the reason of the French Ambassador's request to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

[9021] No. 126.

Sir E. Egerton to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 51.) P.

Sir, *Rome, March* 16, 1907.

WHEN I visited Signor Tittoni this morning, I informed him that I was instructed strongly to support the French Ambassador in the view which he was putting forward on behalf of his Government as to the choice of an Engineer, as laid down by Article 66 of the Algeciras Act. I alluded to the activity shown by Dr. Rosen in his attempts to upset the settlement, made at Algeciras, which left the main voice in the affairs of Morocco to France and Spain.

Signor Tittoni informed me that he had heard that the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs wished, like himself, that the matter, which was an unimportant one, might be settled by an amicable compromise. The Austro-Hungarian Government were, his Excellency said, averse to the French claim.

It was true, Signor Tittoni continued, that Italy was bound not to oppose France in Morocco, but he did not wish to expose himself to reproaches such as were addressed to Italy by her allies when Signor Visconti-Venosta voted against Germany and Austria at the Conference, and the tones of triumph of the French press on that occasion were still fresh in his mind. He, therefore, did not wish to vote either way in such a small question at that now at issue. He suggested that the post of Engineer might be given to the Frenchman, and some other post might be found for the Belgian, thus finding a way out of the dilemma.

I replied that such an attitude on the part of Italy would be a change of her previous position, and that the matter, though small, was of importance as a matter of principle. It would, I said, be difficult to deal with Italy if her African policy were to be influenced by the Triple Alliance, however excellent the effects of the Alliance might be in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

[8856] No. 127.

Lloyd's to Foreign Office.—(*Received March* 19.)

Sir, *Royal Exchange, London, March* 18, 1907.

I AM instructed to beg that you will be so good as to allow the following matter to be brought under the notice of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for favourable consideration:—

The Secretary of State is doubtless aware that in 1892 a signal station was erected for Lloyd's at Cape Spartel by the Moorish Government at the expense of that Government, and the Moorish Government stipulated that the Moorish flag should be flown from the station, and that a Moorish guard should be posted there.

This signal station has been maintained by Lloyd's ever since that time, and is still in full working order.

About the year 1902, in view of the suitability of Cape Spartel as a wireless signal station, my Committee took into consideration the question of equipping the station at Cape Spartel with the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy, and the matter was submitted to the Moorish Government by His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tangier. It is understood that the Moorish Government expressed their readiness to accede to Lloyd's request for permission to instal this station, if the foreign Representatives at Tangier saw no objection. When the matter was proceeded with, however, it appeared that

F.O. 371 / 44
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the unanimous approval of these foreign Representatives, and consequently the matter was dropped.

My attention has, however, now been called to an article in a weekly newspaper published at Tangier, entitled "Al Moghreb al Aksa," from which it appears that steps are now being taken to instal wireless telegraphic apparatus at Dar-el-Baida, Mazagan, Saffi, Mogador, and Tangier by some French Company.

My Committee are not aware whether this report is well founded or not, but, should it prove to be correct, my Committee would be obliged if the Secretary of State would be so good as to allow instructions to be issued to His Majesty's Minister at Tangier to remind the Moorish Government that permission has already been accorded by that Government to Lloyd's in the case of the signal station at Cape Spartel for the establishment of a wireless telegraphic installation, and perhaps this might form a suitable opportunity for inquiries being instituted by His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, should the Secretary of State so think fit, to ascertain whether the foreign Representatives at that port could now agree to the equipment by Lloyd's of this station with the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy, in view of the Regulations which have been adopted by the recent International Conference relating to wireless matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD F. INGLEFIELD, *Secretary.*

[9038] No. 128.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March 19, 1907.*

I HAVE been requested by the Spanish Minister to support the candidature of a Spaniard for post of Assistant Engineer if the Chief Engineer selected is a Frenchman.

Would this meet with your approval?

These engineers are to be appointed under Article 66 of the Act of Algeciras.

[5977] No. 129.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 157.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 19, 1907.*

DURING a visit which the French Ambassador paid to me on the 1st instant, I took an opportunity of communicating to his Excellency the information reported to me by His Majesty's Minister at Tangier in his telegram No. 14 of the 22nd ultimo, with regard to the establishment by a French citizen of wireless telegraphy apparatus at Tangier, Casablanca, and elsewhere on the Moorish coast.

I told M. Cambon that such action, if true, appeared to His Majesty's Government as likely to give rise either to objections on the part of the other Powers Signatories of the Algeciras Act, or to applications for similar rights and privileges in the matter of other schemes, possibly of an undesirable nature. I expressed my opinion that the establishment of wireless telegraphy clearly fell under the heading of "public services," of the kind contemplated in Articles 105, 106, 107 of the Algeciras Act, and as such it seemed to me that its installation should be subject to the principle of public competition.

But, apart from this consideration, such action on the part of the French would, I said, place His Majesty's Government in a position of peculiar embarrassment, inasmuch as a prior right to the installation of a wireless apparatus was claimed on behalf of the British signalling station at Cape Spartel, in the immediate vicinity of Tangier. The application for the erection of this installation dates back as far as 1903, but, owing to the desire of His Majesty's Government to await the results of the international discussion of the whole question of wireless telegraphy, it was not actively prosecuted at the time. While content, however, to let the matter rest for the time being, His Majesty's Government had given the Moorish authorities to understand that, when the right moment should arrive for granting concessions of this kind, they expected that the prior claim of the Cape Spartel signal station, the justice of which the Makhzen do not appear to dispute, would receive due recognition.

M. Cambon said that he had received no information on this subject, but expressed himself as confident that, if the facts were as stated, there would be no difficulty in an amicable arrangement being arrived at between the two Governments in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[9038] No. 130.

Memorandum communicated to M. Cambon, March 21, 1907.

(Confidential.)

THE Spanish Government have intimated that, in the event of a French citizen being appointed to the post of State engineer in Morocco, they desire to put forward the candidature of a Spanish subject for the appointment of assistant engineer, and would be glad if this candidature had the support of the British Minister at Tangier.

No reply has as yet been made to this intimation, His Majesty's Government being anxious in the first instance to consult the wishes of the French Government in the matter. They hope, however, that the Spanish proposal will be favourably received. It appears to His Majesty's Government that it would be desirable to take this opportunity to recognize in a practical manner the loyal co-operation of Spain with France and England in the Algeciras settlement, and to give some encouragement to the Spanish Government in continuing in the same line of policy.

Foreign Office, March 21, 1907.

[9274] No. 131.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Tangier, March 16, 1907.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, after protracted negotiations with the Beni Aros tribe, with whom Raisuli had taken refuge, and other hill tribes adjoining, which led to the submission of some of them, including fractions of the Beni Aros but not the whole tribe, the Minister of War decided to attack that tribe and compel them to surrender Raisuli.

The troops accordingly changed their camp to the outskirts of the Beni Aros, and a few outlying villages were attacked and destroyed. The following day a further advance was made, and more villages were attacked and destroyed, with some loss however to the troops, one of the best Colonels and a number of men being killed. The next day the advance into Beni Aros territory was renewed, other villages being attacked. The Beni Ghorfet tribe, however, which had nominally made its submission, joined the Beni Aros, and, taking the Government troops in the rear, inflicted a serious reverse on them, putting them to flight with heavy loss.

Since then no further attacks have been made, reinforcements being awaited, but the Beni Aros, fearing probably further destruction of their villages, sent in a deputation to sue for pardon and make their submission. It is difficult to ascertain with certainty the nature of the negotiations, but it appears that the deputation was not able to comply with all the conditions imposed by Sid Guebbas, and they have withdrawn to their tribe.

In the meantime Raisuli has left Beni Aros territory and struck further into the mountains, accompanied, it is said, by only a few followers. There are reports that some of the tribes are barring his way and that the Makhzen have hopes of effecting his capture, but this seems unlikely.

Raisuli himself undoubtedly feels himself insecure, as is shown by a letter he wrote last week to an agent of his in Tangier, requesting him to apply to M. Regnault for French protection, and offering in that case to come into Tangier and live here quietly like Menebhi, saying that he was afraid of his neighbours, owing to the money he has with him.

Whilst an abundance of money is a source of danger to Raisuli, their want of it is

52
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

even more dangerous to the Makhzen. From all accounts they are at the end of their resources, and have applied in vain to various firms here for loans. It is reported that the troops at Tetuan and Alcazar have not been paid for some weeks, and that shortly there will be no funds out of which to pay the troops here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

[9481] No. 132.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1907.

YOUR telegram No. 18: Assistant Engineer for Morocco.

You may join with your French and Russian colleagues in supporting candidature of Spaniard, as requested by Spanish Minister.

[9535] No. 133.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 23, 1907.

I REGRET to report the murder by the mob at Morocco City on the 19th instant of a French doctor established there. He had placed a pole and white flag on his house for triangulation purposes, and this apparently incensed the crowd.

The pole and flag, I am assured by the French Minister, have no connection with wireless telegraphy.

[8084] No. 134.

Foreign Office to Eastern Telegraph Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1907.

SECRETARY Sir E. Grey has had under his careful consideration your letter of the 11th instant with reference to the establishment of wireless and other telegraphic installations in Morocco. You state in that letter that Mr. Talbot has offered to procure in favour of the Eastern Telegraph Company a Concession for the establishment of communication by wireless telegraphy between Fez and Tangier, and inquire how the provisions of the Algeciras Act would be affected were the Company to put up the necessary constructions and hand them over as a free gift to the Sultan.

I am directed to state, in reply, that proceedings of this nature would, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, practically amount to an infringement of the spirit, if not of the letter, of Articles 106, 107, and 108 of the Act.

A system of wireless telegraphy, by whomsoever owned, which is to be worked by recourse to foreign capital or industry and is to be open to the use of the public at fixed charges, appears clearly to constitute a "public service." A Concession from the Sultan to "work" such public service could, under the above Articles, not be granted except by recourse to the machinery of public awards on tenders invited after communication with the Diplomatic Body at Tangier.

In these circumstances the Secretary of State is advised that any Concession sought from the Sultan for the establishment or working of wireless telegraphy in Morocco should be applied for with due observance of the procedure laid down in the Algeciras Act.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST.

[9275] No. 131*.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 62.)
Sir, *Tangier, March* 16, 1907.

UPON receipt of your despatch No. 27 of the 18th ultimo, I addressed a letter to the Portuguese Minister, as doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, drawing his attention to the fact that no reply had yet been received to the notes addressed to Sid-ben-Sliman on the 20th September and 20th December, 1906, with regard to the abolition of slavery in Morocco.

Count Martens Ferrão submitted the matter to our colleagues, and it was decided that a further letter be addressed to Sid-ben-Sliman on the subject.

I beg leave to transmit herewith translation of this letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 131*.

Doyen of Diplomatic Corps to Sid-ben-Sliman.

(Traduction.)
(Compliments d'usage.)
Tanger, le 16 *Mars*, 1907.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception à votre Excellence de la lettre qu'elle a bien voulu m'adresser à la date du 10 Décembre, 1906, et dans laquelle elle me donne l'assurance que Sa Majesté Chérifienne prendra les mesures nécessaires pour qu'à l'avenir il ne soit plus possible dans l'Empire de dérober à leurs parents de jeunes enfants afin de les vendre comme esclaves sur les marchés.

Le Corps Diplomatique a pris connaissance de cette lettre avec satisfaction, parce qu'il a vu dans les dispositions dont elle témoigne la marque d'un désir sincère chez le Makhzen de porter remède à l'état de choses qui lui était signalé.

Il a été d'avis, toutefois, qu'en envisageant à un point de vue aussi limité la question qui nous occupe, la lettre de votre Excellence ne répondait que d'une façon tout a fait insuffisante à celle que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui adresser le 15 Décembre dernier et qui n'était elle-même qu'un rappel d'un lettre de M. Malmusi en date du 20 Septembre, 1906. Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien se reporter à ces différentes communications et de se rappeler les entretiens qu'elle a eus à ce sujet avec mon honorable prédécesseur, tandis que celui-ci remplissait à Fez la mission que les Puissances lui avaient confiée et dont l'objet était de soumettre à la ratification de Sa Majesté Chérifienne les décisions prises à Algésiras.

Parmi ces dispositions, auxquelles Sa Majesté a bien voulu donner son plein assentiment, figurait un vœu, auquel les Délégués des Gouvernements étrangers ont unanimement adhéré, à cause du prix qu'ils attachaient à sa réalisation, et en vertu duquel le Gouvernement Chérifien était invité à faire tous ses efforts pour limiter et graduellement abolir dans l'Empire le système d'esclavage. Les Représentants des Puissances ont estimé qu'ils ne pouvaient pas attendre davantage avant de faire connaître à leurs Gouvernements respectifs quelles sont sur ce point les intentions du Makhzen. Ils m'ont en conséquence chargé d'insister encore une fois auprès de votre Excellence afin d'obtenir d'elle une réponse précise qu'ils puissent transmettre à leurs Gouvernements, persuadés que le bon vouloir dont le Gouvernement Chérifien nous a, en cette matière, donné une première preuve est un sûr garant que Sa Majesté aura à cœur de satisfaire sur ce point, comme sur tous les autres, au désir que je suis chargé de lui exprimer.

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[9546]

No. 135.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 24, 1907.

MURDER of Dr. Mauchamp: My telegram No. 19 of the 23rd instant.

In a letter dated the 20th instant the British Consular Agent at Marrakesh reports that foreigners were guarded by the authorities and that they were safe. There was considerable firing and disturbance throughout the day of the murder.

[9682]

No. 136.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 59. Confidential.)
Sir,

Madrid, March 18, 1907.

M. TARDIEU'S article in the last issue of the "Revue des deux Mondes" has provoked a good deal of comment in Madrid. While there is a general agreement, with individual exceptions, that his account of the proceedings at the Algeciras Conference is substantially accurate, most of my colleagues hold that its appearance at the present time could serve no useful purpose, and that, though stating the French case, it was probably not inspired by the French Government.

The Russian Ambassador informs me that, immediately on the appearance of the article, M. de Radowitz, German Ambassador, came to see him, and inveighed in an excited manner against its tone and contents, describing the latter as a tissue of falsehoods. M. de Radowitz was evidently nettled by the manner in which the origin of the legend as to the abandonment of France by the majority of the Powers and the accession of the latter to the German side is traced in the article to himself. Comte Cassini tells me that, in a subsequent interview, he found his German colleague much less combative and disposed to consider that a mazagine article was not worthy of serious notice.

Whatever may be the explanation of this change of tone on the part of the German Ambassador, I learn from M. Jules Cambon, who finally left Madrid yesterday, that M. de Radowitz also showed a good deal of agitation in speaking to him on the subject a fortnight ago. M. Cambon pointed out to him that there were prominent pressmen in Germany who sometimes indited articles full of unfriendly allusions to France. He added, however, that he was quite prepared to admit that the article was inopportune, and that he regretted its appearance on the eve of his departure to take up his new post at Berlin. His Excellency recommended to his Government that similar language should be held in Paris in the event of the matter being mentioned by the German Ambassador. M. Cambon considers, however, that the article gives a very accurate account of what passed at Algeciras.

His Excellency received quite an ovation at the railway station on leaving. All the principal Spanish Ministers and Court officials, besides the Diplomatic Body and leading members of Madrid society, were present to see him off, and I only heard expressions of regret at his departure. The prospect of possibly a long interval before M. Révoil's arrival is certainly unfortunate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[9767]

No. 137.

Memorandum communicated privately by Count Manneville, March 25, 1907.

EN transmettant au Gouvernement Français la triste nouvelle de l'assassinat du Dr. Mauchamp, le Ministre de France à Tanger lui a fait savoir qu'on attribuait l'émeute de Marrakesh au fait qu'un poteau avec un pavillon blanc avait été hissé sur la maison du docteur. Ce signal servait sans doute aux opérations géodésiques de la Mission Gentil. Le Ministre de France a la certitude qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une installation de télégraphie sans fil.

D'après des nouvelles envoyées de Marrakesh par M. Gentil et expédiées de

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Casablanca par le Consul de France par bateau spécial, tous les Européens de Marrakesh étaient sains et saufs le 23, à 8 heures du matin, et l'émeute qui a coûté la vie au Dr. Mauchamp n'avait fait aucune autre victime.

Le Gouvernement Français envoie le croiseur "Jeanne d'Arc" à Tanger.

Il considère que le meurtre du Dr. Mauchamp, venant après l'agression commise à Fez sur M. de Gironcourt et l'assassinat de M. Charbonnier, démontre la nécessité de mettre fin par des mesures énergiques et surtout immédiates à l'anarchie Marocaine qui menace en même temps que les Français tous les étrangers.

Le Gouvernement de la République ne se bornera pas à réclamer les réparations qu'exige le meurtre du Dr. Mauchamp. Le Ministre de France à Tanger a été chargé de demander au Gouvernement Chérifien l'exécution immédiate des dispositions de l'Acte d'Algésiras relatives à la police des ports. Il doit en même temps lui faire connaître la décision du Gouvernement Français de procéder sans retard à l'organisation de la police dans la région frontière, en conformité avec les Accords Franco-Marocains. Le Gouvernement de la République est résolu à apporter à un état de choses intolérable la solution qu'il réclame, c'est-à-dire, la mise en vigueur des réformes de police acceptées par les Puissances et par le Maghzen lui-même.

Le 25 *Mars*, 1907.

[9764] No. 138.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 25, 1907.

POPP, the representative of the French Company now occupied with the question of the establishment of wireless telegraphy in Morocco, has suggested a combination of French, German, British, and Spanish interests, having declined a proposal made to him by the German Minister that this matter should be turned into a Franco-German concern.

The German Minister objected strongly to any inclusion of Spanish interests, but Popp adhered to his suggestion and demanded that a Frenchman should be nominated President of the Board, and that the orders given to the Customs at German instigation to prohibit the entry of his machinery into the country should be rescinded. He insisted also that, in the event of the question being submitted to adjudication, a clause should be inserted in the conditions of the tender to grant compensation to the present Company.

[9053] No. 139.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1907.

I HAD the honour on the 6th instant to forward to your Excellency a Memorandum dealing with the question of wireless telegraphy in Morocco, with special reference to a report which had reached me relating to certain proceedings on the part of M. Popp, a French citizen, at Dar-al-Baida, and to ask for any information which the French Government might be able to give me on the subject.

Since that date I have received applications from various British Companies interested in this question, asking for official advice as to the best course for them to follow, and for the support of His Majesty's Government in putting forward their demands.

Being desirous not to take, without previous consultation with the French Government, any action which might prove to be conflicting with their attitude in relation to this matter, I have refrained from sending any reply to these applications until I should be in possession of information as to the opinion held in Paris in respect to the general rules by which the question of wireless telegraphy stations in Morocco should be held to be governed.

In these circumstances I trust that your Excellency will be kind enough to obtain for me an early expression of the views of the French Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[3750] No. 138*.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Lowther.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1907.

YOUR telegram No. 20 [Reported loan to Morocco].

Can Vice-Consul at Fez give any information respecting Mr. Bettelheim and his alleged proceedings?

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[8996] No. 140.

Foreign Office to Lloyd's.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1907.

I HAVE received and laid before Secretary Sir E. Grey your letter of the 18th instant, in which you ask that the Moorish Government may be reminded of the permission they have already accorded to Lloyd's as regards the installation of a wireless telegraphic apparatus in the case of the existing signal station at Cape Spartel.

I am to inform you, in reply, that Sir E. Grey is at present in communication with the French Government on the general subject of wireless installations in Morocco, and that, pending the results of this discussion, he desires to defer any representation to the Moorish Government in the matter, a course in which he trusts that your Committee will concur.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST.

[9784] No. 141.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 149.)

Sir, *Paris, March* 25, 1907.

THE news of the assassination of the French doctor Mauchamp at Marakesh has created the most unpleasant impression in France, coming, as it has done, after a series of outrages directed against French citizens in Morocco.

Most of the papers publish leading articles on the subject, and there is a general demand for some action on the part of the French Government which will insure the lives and property of Frenchmen against the danger which now threatens them. The responsibility for the present state of things is attributed in some quarters more or less directly to Germany, and the French Government are urged to take steps to make the Maghzen feel the power which France possesses owing to the fact that the Moroccan frontier lies open to action from Algeria along a line of 1,200 kilom.

I inclose herein a leading article which appeared in the "Temps" of yesterday evening and which may be said to represent the feelings aroused in Paris on the news of Dr. Mauchamp's assassination.* The tone of the article is of a more moderate character as regards Germany than is usually the case with this paper, as, after alluding to the fact that the policy of Germany has during the past two years been of a nature to encourage the Moors to oppose France, it states, "Nous sommes convaincus que le Gouvernement Impérial doit être le premier à regretter ces explosions de xénophobie. Nous admettons même qu'il ne les ait point prévues"—and makes an appeal for solidarity among the European Powers in face of the danger to foreigners in Morocco.

The "Écho de Paris" lays the blame on German action more directly. The "Radical," on the contrary, says that though the existence of intrigues against French influence can scarcely be a matter for doubt, it is more or less an exaggeration to connect them directly with the crime of which Dr. Mauchamp has been the victim. The "Figaro" makes some allusion in reporting the incident to the state of fanaticism around Marakesh which seems to have been produced by the appearance of the Saharian Chief, Ma-el-Ainin, which caused a French explorer, M. Edmond Doutte, to turn back to Marakesh from a projected journey to Glaoui. It also mentions the likelihood that the natives considered that a mast or instruments for taking meteorological observations erected on the doctor's house were some diabolical invention or some preparation for an invasion, and that this brought about the attack on him. In an article signed by M. Lautier in the same paper, the dispatch of French war-ships to Moroccan ports is somewhat scornfully alluded to as an excellent thing for training French sailors, but not of much use in present circumstances. M. Lautier advocates measures on the frontier which will show, "sans fébrilité mais sans faiblesse," the just resentment felt by France at the turn things are taking in Morocco.

* Not printed.

F.O. 413 / 44 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

It is announced this morning that the French ships "Jeanne d'Arc" and "Lalande" have received orders to proceed to Morocco, and that a Cabinet Council has been at once summoned to consider what other measures should be adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[9767] No. 142.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorandum communicated by Count Manneville on the 25th instant, reporting the sad news of the murder of Dr. Mauchamp at Marrakesh, and to ask you to be so good as to convey to the French Government the sincere sympathy of His Majesty's Government, who have learnt with profound regret of this distressing occurrence.

I desire also to thank your Excellency for communicating to me the gratifying intelligence of the safety, down to the 23rd instant, of the British and other European residents at that place, and to express the earnest hope of His Majesty's Government that the energetic measures which the French Government propose to take in reparation will exercise a beneficial effect upon the Sultan of Morocco and his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[9926] No. 143.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 176.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1907.

M. GEOFFRAY to-day left with me a Memorandum to the effect that Lloyd's might come to an understanding with the French Society as to wireless telegraphy in Morocco; that the Spaniards should have a share; and that the Germans might perhaps also demand participation.

I said it appeared to me that the establishment of one wireless telegraphy station rendered others in its neighbourhood impossible, and the matter ought therefore to be treated as a monopoly, like other telegraphs or railways, and made the subject of a Concession. In this way it would come under the Algeciras Act. I thought that, unless this procedure was adopted, the result must be confusion.

M. Geoffray said that personally he thought this view was the right one, and he asked if he might communicate it to his Government, to which I agreed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[9927] No. 144.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 177.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 26, 1907.

M. GEOFFRAY called to-day to inform me of the measures which the French Government were taking in Morocco to occupy Ujda.

He explained that the occupation would be temporary—till they had obtained satisfaction for the recent murder at Marakesh and for the others which had preceded it.

I said that the murder at Marakesh seemed to have been very brutal, and I was not surprised that the French Government felt it necessary to take some definite step. We should, of course, be glad to give them our diplomatic support in obtaining satisfaction, if necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[9891] No. 145.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 151.)
Sir, *Paris, March* 26, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 10 of yesterday evening, I have the honour to inform you that the following communiqué has been issued to the press:—

"Le Conseil de Ministres a décidé, sur la proposition du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, de procéder à l'occupation provisoire d'Oudjda, jusqu'à ce que le Gouvernement Marocain ait donné satisfaction aux demandes de réparation dont il va être immédiatement saisi en raison de l'assassinat du Docteur Mauchamp.

"Cette décision a été prise comme conséquence de la constatation faite du refus persistant du Maghzen d'exécuter les accords qu'il a conclus en 1901 et 1902 avec le Gouvernement de la République, et de répondre aux demandes multipliées de répression ou de réparation qui lui ont été adressées par la France à la suite d'abus de pouvoir, de délits, ou de crimes commis à l'égard de Français sur le territoire Marocain."

Orders have been sent to General Lyautey, in command of French troops on the Algerian-Moroccan frontier, to occupy Oujda as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[9894] No. 146.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 155.)
Sir, *Paris, March* 26, 1907.

I SAW the Political Director at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this afternoon and had some conversation with him on the subject of the action which the French Government have decided to take in Morocco, as reported in my despatch No. 151 of to-day's date.

M. Louis said that the Government had realized that strong measures were absolutely necessary; they had decided upon the temporary occupation of Oujda as being the course the least likely to entangle them in complications with other Powers, the town in question being at a safe distance from any European Colonies. For this reason it was preferable to the bombardment of a port, which would entail claims for indemnity, and not really affect the guilty parties.

He was glad that the Government had delayed action, notwithstanding the long series of provocations which they had endured at the hands of the Moors, for it had now been clearly shown that a long-suffering policy was useless. The assassins of M. Charbonnier were at large, and walking about freely in the streets of Tangier, though their identity was perfectly well known to the Pasha. M. Louis said that they intended to continue to occupy Oujda until full satisfaction had been given for the murder of Dr. Mauchamp, and also until all the various conditions agreed to by the Moorish Government in recent years had been carried out.

The Government were interpellated on the question of their Morocco policy in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon, when a letter was read by M. Dubief from Dr. Mauchamp himself, complaining of the lack of assistance given him by the Legation at Tangier. M. Pichon's answer appears not to have been very convincing, but the forcible measures now taken by the Government evidently have the support of the Chamber, and an order of the day accepted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs was adopted unanimously by a show of hands.

I have had the opportunity of conversing with persons of various shades of opinion on the subject, and they all consider that the action of the Government was the only one possible. France has shown herself very long-suffering, and now, in the presence of this abominable and unprovoked crime, her case is such a good one that it renders impossible any objections from other quarters. In this connection a person of Nationalist tendencies said to me to-day that, monstrous as he considers the treatment by the Government of General Bailloud (see my despatch No. 150 of to-day's date), he was glad that it should have occurred at this particular moment, as it proved how pacific were the intentions of the Government, and how anxious they were to avoid anything which could give offence on the other side of the Rhine.

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The "Temps" of this evening publishes a leading article on the subject, which concludes with quoting the speech pronounced by the Emperor William on the occasion of the departure of Prince Henry of Prussia for China, to occupy the Bay of Kiao-chau as a reprisal for the murder of two German missionaries in Shantung. Other Powers had been obliged, and might in the future again be obliged, to take measures similar to those now being taken by the French Government, and in the present case there was no doubt that the whole world would be on the side of France.

Copy of the article in question is inclosed herein.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Extract from the "Temps" of March 27, 1907.

LES REPRÉSAILLES CONTRE LE MAROC.

(Extrait.)

AU point de vue international, la situation n'est pas moins claire. Ce que nous allons faire au Maroc, toutes les Puissances ont été amenées, ou peuvent être amenées, à le faire ailleurs. Le devoir que nous remplissons est un devoir que d'autres ont rempli hier, que d'autres rempliront demain dans le reste du monde. C'est une démarche toute normale, et pour laquelle les précédents abondent. L'occasion serait donc mal choisie pour insister, à propos de cette affaire, sur les divisions qui ont pu, à de certaines heures, exister au Maroc entre les pays Européens. Car dans le cas présent, tous seront sans nul doute d'accord avec la France. "Sous la protection de notre drapeau, notre commerce, nos commerçants, nos navires doivent posséder le droit que nous revendiquons, le droit égal qu'on reconnaît, à l'étranger, à toutes les autres nations. . . . Que chaque Européen, que chaque négociant de notre race, que chaque étranger surtout, sur le sol duquel nous nous trouvons ou avec qui nous avons affaire, sache bien que . . . . nous assurons à qui y a droit, une fois pour toutes, notre protection. Et que nos compatriotes qui sont au loin aient la ferme conviction qu'ils peuvent compter sur notre sauvegarde durable et sur celle de nos vaisseaux de guerre." Il est impossible de mieux justifier notre initiative actuelle. La formule qu'on vient de lire n'est point, au reste, de M. Clemenceau ou de M. Pichon. Elle est de l'Empereur Guillaume II, saluant le 15 Décembre, 1897, le départ du Prince Henri de Prusse, qui allait occuper en Chine la Baie de Kiao-Tchéou, en représailles du meurtre, commis le mois précédent, de deux missionnaires Allemands dans la Province du Chantoung.

[10004] No. 147.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, March 27, 1907.*

THE intentions of the French Government in regard to the exaction of full reparation for the outrage recently reported from Marakesh were yesterday communicated to the Minister of State by the French Chargé d'Affaires.

I impressed upon his Excellency, in a conversation which I had with him before his interview with the French Chargé d'Affaires, how necessary it was that the demands of France should receive cordial support at the hands of the Spanish Government.

Though Señor Allendesalazar agreed with my point of view, he was clearly very nervous, and the proposed occupation by French troops of Ujda, which is in such close proximity to Spanish territory, is evidently distasteful to him.

[10015] No. 148.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 158. Confidential.)
Sir, *Paris, March 27, 1907.*

IN the course of conversation to-day M. Pichon told me that he had made a special point of enumerating at length in his speech in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday on the subject of the assassination of Dr. Mauchamp the series of grievances which the French Government had against the Moorish Government, extending over a considerable period of time. The task had not been a particularly agreeable one, but it had had the desired effect, as shown by the unanimous approval of the present action of the Government.

It had been decided to employ a considerable force in the occupation of Oujda, in order to obviate any possible mishap, and to impress the Arab mind. The force will be composed as follows: three battalions of infantry; two squadrons of Spahis; one or two mounted batteries; one section of Engineers; one goum [*sic*] of 200 Arab Horse.

It is hoped that Oujda will be occupied on the 29th, or at latest the 30th of this month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[10016] No. 149.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 159.)
Sir, *Paris, March 27, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, extracted from the "Journal Officiel," an account of the debate which took place yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies respecting the assassination of Dr. Mauchamp at Marrakesh, and the measures contemplated by the Government to exact reparation from the Moorish authorities.*

The first speaker, M. Chaussier, gave an account of the murdered man from personal knowledge, and of his career up to the time when he became doctor in charge of the French dispensary at Marrakesh, "founded by a Decree of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in July 1905" (p. 825).

The debate was continued by M. Dubief, Minister of the Interior in the last Ministry but one. He read a long letter from Dr. Mauchamp complaining of neglect on the part of the officials of his country (p. 826).

The Minister for Foreign Affairs replied at some length to M. Dubief's reflections upon the treatment received by Dr. Mauchamp at the hands of the French Foreign Office, and then proceeded to explain to the Chamber the general aspect of the question in Morocco. He gave a detailed list (p. 829) of the incidents with regard to which France demanded satisfaction from the Makhzen, which is, as will be seen, of considerable length and importance.

He was followed in the Tribune by M. Ribot, the leader of the Progressists, who took occasion to say that, though the policy of pacific penetration commended itself as a policy to every one, it was hardly the moment when fanaticism was aroused in Morocco to hope or aspire to "le conquérir pacifiquement en y pénétrant imprudemment." He consequently criticized the measure taken by the Government in sending Dr. Mauchamp to Marrakesh, where there was no French Consular officer, and where he could not be efficiently protected.

He urged, however, that the circumstances demanded that the policy of the Government should be unanimously supported by Parliament, and the debate was closed by a Resolution approving the attitude of the Government, and accepted by the Chamber without a division.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

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* Not printed

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ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

[10011] No. 150.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. G. Lowther.

(No. 49.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1907.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a question asked in the House of Commons on the 26th instant, and of my reply, in regard to the condition of the prisons in Morocco.

I shall be glad to receive from you a report on the subject at your early convenience.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 26, 1907.

Mr. Hugh Law,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the improvement in the condition of Morocco prisons has ceased, and that things have reverted to their former condition; that the prison inspectors have been dismissed; that gaolers have little, and, in some cases, no pay; that the Government provides no food for the prisoners; and that the prisons are filthy, insanitary, and full of vermin; and, if so, whether he will instruct the British Minister at Tangier to consult his colleagues as to the necessity of drawing the attention of the Moorish Government to the condition of the prisons, with a view to immediate improvement.

Answer.

I have received no information to show that the state of affairs in the prisons of Morocco has recently deteriorated, but I will instruct His Majesty's Minister at Tangier to furnish me with a report on the subject.

[10155] No. 151.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 29, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 22 of the 25th instant on the subject of wireless telegraphy, the French, Spanish, and German Ministers are agreed on the bases on which an international Company might be founded. The French Minister is very anxious for the participation of an English Company. I am forwarding by to-morrow's post the bases of the Agreement.

(Private.)

M. Regnault hopes that Siemens and Halske will not be the English Company participating.

[10161] No. 152.

Sir E. Egerton to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)

Sir, *Rome, March* 25, 1907.

THE French Councillor of Embassy tells me he saw Signor Tittoni on the subject of the engineer question in Morocco, and found him much embarrassed and desirous to find a way out of the difficulty which, he said, was caused by the Sultan's nomination of a Belgian engineer. He had heard from St. Petersburgh that the Russian Government now supported the French point of view, which he admitted was just, and he would certainly represent to Prince Bülow, whom he would see next Thursday, the

28th, at Rapallo, that a little question like this, of the appointment of an engineer under the Algeciras settlement, should not be allowed to divide Europe into two camps.

Signor Tittoni did not say that he had sent instructions to the Italian Representative at Tangier to support the French candidate.

I understand that about a week ago M. Barrère recommended that the whole question should be postponed for a short time.

The French Government have, it appears, ordered their Representative here to inform the Italian Government of the recent assassination of a French subject in Morocco, and of the consequent determination of his Government to take measures for the proper organization of the police.

Signor Tittoni, as well as Signor Giolitti, is this week absent from Rome.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

[10195] No. 153.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 165.)

Sir, *Paris, March* 29, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an extract from the "Matin," reproducing an article from the Berlin paper "Berliner Tageblatt," in which an arrangement is strongly advocated between France and Germany whereby the former should be given a free hand in Morocco in return for a "definite compensation" to Germany in the Near East.

The article from the German paper is given unusual prominence on the first page of the "Matin," which is at present a very widely-read paper in France, and I have therefore thought it worth while to call your attention to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Extract from the "Matin" of March 29, 1907.

LE BOULET AU PIED.

SOUS ce titre, "Le Boulet," le "Berliner Tageblatt," un des journaux les plus importants de Berlin, publie dans son numéro d'hier, en première page, un article sur la question Marocaine dont nous extrayons l'intéressant passage suivant :—

"Ce Maroc est une éternelle pomme de discorde, une source de différends continuels avec les Puissances Occidentales.

"C'est un boulet que nous avons au pied, qui entrave notre marche et nous empêche de prendre part aux grandes affaires mondiales.

"Tandis que nous nous donnons beaucoup de mal pour vendre à ce pays—d'ailleurs insolvable—quelques canons Krupp ou autres bagatelles de ce genre, les arrangements relatifs à la Perse sont conclus sans nous, et l'affaire du Chemin de Fer de Bagdad tombe à l'eau.

"Nos véritables intérêts—intérêts de toute sorte—sont sur le sol Turc, et nous ne pouvons enregistrer aucun pas fait de ce côté depuis quelque temps.

"Deux fois—avant la conclusion de l'Accord Franco-Anglais et après la démission de M. Delcassé—nous avons eu l'occasion de régler ces intéressantes questions, et, les deux fois, nous l'avons laissée passer sans en profiter . . . .

"Dans quinze jours, M. Jules Cambon, le nouvel Ambassadeur de France, sera à Berlin. Peut-être alors sera-t-on prêt à causer de la question du Maroc, de celle du Chemin de Fer de Bagdad et de quelques autres choses intéressantes. Nous avons brûlé presque tous les livres Sibyllins, mais celui qui nous reste peut, entre des mains habiles, être utilement employé. Le Maroc est pour la France, en raison de son

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voisinage avec l'Algérie, d'une telle importance que nous pourrions demander une 'compensation précise' pour nous 'désintéresser'* de Fez.

"La liberté du commerce et les droits de nos commerçants doivent en toutes circonstances demeurer protégés, mais le Maroc doit cesser d'être pour nous un boulet au pied qui paralyse toute notre activité politique."

Tout le monde, en France, approuvera ce langage sensé.

Une proposition comme celle que contient l'article du "Berliner Tageblatt" doit être examinée, et chacun souhaitera ici qu'elle puisse réussir. Ce n'est pas de ce côté de la frontière que l'on trouvera des gens désireux de prolonger des débats irritants pour tous, inquiétants pour quelques-uns.

[10325] No. 154.

Mr. G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 31, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 71 of the 24th instant, I request instructions as to whether you wish any representation to be made regarding the attack on the British Consular Agency at Marakesh.

I fear little effect would be produced by a mere protest, and I have made at present no representation on the subject.

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* En Français dans le texte

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